

KEY FIGURES

956,683

Refugees and migrants arriving by sea to Europe in 2015.

3,625

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

802,786

Sea arrivals in Greece as of 17 December.

2,757

Average daily sea arrivals in Greece from 11 - 17 December 2015.

150,200

Sea arrivals in Italy as of 17 December.

322,371

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

32,893

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 75.3M: Funding received (91 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 #15

11 – 17 December 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The European Commission (EC) enacted four major decisions during this reporting period. It:
 - proposed the creation of a European Border and Coast Guard and reinforced Frontex's mandate in external border management and return, renaming it "the European Border and Coast Guard Agency". The [Border Package](#) establishes a European Border and Coast Guard, targets a revision of the Schengen Borders Code and a Regulation on a European travel document for the return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. These proposals will go through legislative procedure and require agreement before they can come into force;
 - recommended the establishment of a [Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme](#) (VHAS) with Turkey, in the framework of the Joint Action Plan of Action approved on 15 October. The scheme foresees an efficient and voluntary scheme allowing the humanitarian admission from Turkey into the European Union (EU) of persons in need of protection, displaced by the conflict in Syria. UNHCR, with the assistance of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and IOM, will facilitate the implementation of the scheme;
 - proposed the temporary suspension of [Sweden's participation in the EU relocation mechanism](#) and has published [progress reports on Greece, Italy and the Western Balkans](#) in the context of the European Agenda on Migration;
 - decided to send letters of formal notice to Croatia, Greece and Italy for failing to fully transpose and implement the common European asylum system.



UNHCR and the Red Cross assisting refugees and migrants while disembarking the train at Garcin (Croatia)
©UNHCR/J. Kapic, November 2015.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

With the winter approaching, more shipwrecks are occurring. According to the Hellenic Coast Guard, the dead toll is 223 and the missing 148, from 1 January to 14 December 2015. A shipwreck occurred on the sea border between Greece and Turkey near Kastelorizo Island on 12 December. However, the most recent one was on 16 December, when a wooden boat sank off the coast of Molyvos, 1.3 miles north of Eftalou, Lesvos Island. Two people, including one child and one man of 80 years old, were confirmed dead and dozens are missing. Ninety persons were reportedly rescued so far. The Hellenic Coast Guard, Frontex, MSF, Greenpeace, and private boats are participating in the ongoing rescue efforts.

So far this year, there were 797,520 arrivals in **Greece**, including 19,302 during the reporting period. The situation remained calm in Eidomeni, where Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis continue to be allowed to cross into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. On 15 December, the Alternate Minister for Migration Policy and Mayors of Southern Athens agreed to transfer of the refugees and migrants staying at the temporary facility in Palaio Faliro to the hockey stadium at Elliniko, which has a capacity of 850 people. The facility in Palaio Faliro is planned to be closed on 17 December.

The Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Alexis Tsipras, accompanied by the Alternate Minister for Migration Policy Mouzalas, visited Chios and Leros islands on 16 December to inspect the hotspots under construction. After his visit, the Greek Premier stated that Greece succeeded in fulfilling its obligations, but now it is the EU partners' turn to proceed with the relocation of 66,000 asylum-seekers from Greece; provide meaningful assistance with returns; and implement the agreement between EU and Turkey. In a newspaper statement, prior to the EU summit of 17 December, the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Alexis Tsipras, said that Greece has already made all necessary moves for the implementation of the readmission agreements, which will be re-affirmed at the EU Summit.

UNHCR and the EC have launched a programme to provide 20,000 additional reception places for asylum-seekers in Greece through rent subsidies and host family programmes. The places provided under this scheme are an important part of the EU emergency relocation programme, providing temporary accommodation in Greece for applicants who are awaiting relocation to other EU Member States. The declaration was signed by UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees - Operations, Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Greece's Alternate Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Mr. Ioannis Mouzalas, and, on behalf of the EC, Vice-President, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva. During her stay in Athens, EC Vice-President Georgieva visited Elaionas site accompanied by Athens Mayor and the Secretary General of the Greek Ministry on Migration and discussed ways to accelerate the implementation of support programmes.

Some 21,292 people arrived in the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) now has sufficient resources to register almost all individuals. Some 173 people with no documents or in possession of forged documents were returned to the Greek border. While they were all counselled on the asylum procedure, and their right to apply, no one did. Winterization activities in the reception centre in Gevgelija and in Tabanovce were intensified. The lack of sufficient electricity remained a challenge in both sites with the advent of colder weather. In a meeting with Mr. Donald Tusk (President of the European Council), Mr. Tomislav Nikolic (President of Serbia), and Mr. Johannes Hahn (EU Enlargement Commissioner) on 16 December in Brussels, President Ivanov re-iterated that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia only has the capacity to receive 2,000 refugees for short-term transit, as was pledged during the Leaders' meeting held in Brussels in October, and will not put in place any longer-term stay capacity.

Some 21,558 refugees and migrants entered **Serbia**. The majority were Syrian families with small children, followed by single men from Afghanistan and Iraq. The weather turned colder but remained mostly dry. Enhancement of heated emergency shelter and waiting capacities was progressing in all sites.

On 14 December, at the second EU-Serbia Inter-governmental Conference (IGC) in Brussels, the first EU accession negotiations entered a new stage by opening the substantive talks on chapters 32 (on financial control) and 35 (on normalization of Belgrade-Pristina relations), thus deepening the level of partnership of Serbia with the EU. The Serbian delegation at the IGC was led by the Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic.

In **Hungary**, there were 34 new arrivals. The Police apprehended 36 refugees and migrants after irregular entry, mainly from Serbia. The total number of arrivals in 2015 has reached 391,245 and there are 176,892 applications registered. So far in December the Hungarian authorities have registered over 100 new asylum claims. According to Government data,

as of 17 December 703 individuals are detained in asylum detention centers and in various prison facilities.

On 10 December, the EC addressed a formal letter of notice to Hungary opening an infringement procedure concerning the recently adopted asylum legislation. In its press release the Commission notes that the Hungarian legislation in some instances is incompatible with the EU law, specifically in relation to the Recast Procedures Directive and the Directive on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings.

From 11 to 17 December, 24,189 people arrived from Serbia to the Winter Reception and Transit Centre (WRTC) in Slavonski Brod, **Croatia**. All were from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. The number of refugees and migrants arriving in Croatia since 16 September reached 500,000.

On 14 December, UNHCR, the Croatian Mol and Croatian Red Cross co-organized an annual two-day conference on International Protection in Osijek, which was attended by more than hundred representatives of government institutions, international organizations and civil society. The conference put emphasis on the influx of refugees and migrants, prevailing challenges as well as the response by the Government of Croatia, international organizations and civil society.

There were 23,133 new arrivals to **Slovenia**, mostly families and individuals from Afghanistan and Syria. There were only a few families from Iraq. Following discussion on the creation of a “mini-Schengen” by five EU member states, the Slovenian Prime Minister highlighted in Parliament that the “mini-Schengen will not come into existence and that Slovenia is implementing Schengen rules and will remain in the Schengen area”.

There were 24,121 new arrivals to **Austria**. Austria has so far pledged 400 further places in the context of the EU Resettlement Programme, the third that Austria will conduct for Syrian refugees. It was agreed to start with the process for the first 200 places in the first quarter of 2016. At the Slovenian-Austrian border the construction of a new screening centre directly at the border, where new arrivals shall be channeled through as of January, as well as the construction of a wire-netting fence (no barbwire) at both sides of the border crossing are in full swing.

During the reporting period, over 810 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in **Italy**. Transfers under the EU relocation scheme took place of 14 Eritrean asylum-seekers to Finland and 10 Eritrean and Syrian asylum-seekers, as well as nuclear family members of different nationalities, to Portugal.

Protection, Humanitarian Assistance and Technical Support

Greece

Achievements and Impact

- A UNHCR, ICRC, IRC, Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA), MSF, Boat Refugee Foundation, IsraAid and other organizations, in close collaboration with the authorities and volunteers, provided material and psychosocial support to the survivors of the shipwreck of 16 December off Lesbos. Family members among the survivors have been reunited at the Oxy assembly point, 18 people have been transported to Mytilini hospital with severe and moderate hypothermia. UNHCR also provided accommodation and translation services for the survivors of the shipwreck occurred off Kastelorizo on 12 December.
- In Kos, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors provided material support to the Hellenic Coast Guard, including high thermal blankets, hygiene kits, face masks, face towel, latex gloves, cleaning items, soaps, and chlorine.
- In Chios, UNHCR, NRC, Samaritan's Purse, Spanish Red Cross and other partners set-up a joint pipeline for distribution of NFIs at Tabakika registration site and Souda reception centre.
- In Athens, UNHCR has installed and is currently winterizing two rub halls in Elliniko temporary reception site, in addition to the 500 sleeping mats and 500 sleeping bags already delivered to the site. UNHCR also conducted group and individual information sessions in Elliniko and Tae Kwon Do stadium on processes and options, to ensure that all those interested in seeking asylum have access to it.
- UNHCR has set-up a working group on Communication with Community (CWC) and organized meetings with partners in Athens and Eidomeni, to discuss tools to further disseminate protection and legal information to refugees and migrants.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many volunteers are leaving Leros for the holidays and a gap in response is anticipated. UNHCR is evaluating alternatives to cover this situation in collaboration with authorities and partners.
- In Farmakonisi, there is a reported lack of food, water and shelter available. UNHCR is working to address this issue.
- In Samos, it was observed that unaccompanied children who arrive via Agathonissi are not properly referred to the relevant authorities. UNHCR is following up to remedy the situation.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continued to intervene in cases of deportation to Greece, including for mixed families, Palestinians originating from Syria, and/or when proof of Syrian, Afghani or Iraqi nationality cannot be obtained. An average of 50 cases of deportations per day have been recorded since the admission practice based on Syrian, Afghan or Iraqi citizenship was introduced by some of the EU and Western Balkans countries on the Mediterranean route. The vast majority presented either forged Greek registration documents, Greek registration documents indicating nationalities other than Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan or have no documents at all.
- UNHCR supported the Police to improve identification and registration of unaccompanied children. It was established that the Greek authorities were registering children, in general, individually, and issuing them separate documentation from their parents or guardian's. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia authorities replicated the practice and identified them as unaccompanied. In order to resolve the situation, the Police, supported by input from UNHCR, produced a note informing the registration team on the procedure for identifying and registering unaccompanied children. It was agreed that UNHCR would interview identified unaccompanied children before registration, and advise the Police on how to proceed following the interview. The procedure will become official in the near future. From 11 through 17 December there was a notable decrease in the number of unaccompanied children being registered, from an average of 205 a day the previous week to 20 per day during the reporting period. Best Interest Assessments/interviews were conducted with the majority of identified cases.
- UNHCR and partners distributed 21,581 food parcels, 3,000 sandwiches, 4,400 hot soups, 2,288 blankets, 12,993 water bottles, 285 winter jackets, as well as items for babies and hygienic parcels.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the cold weather, insufficient heating and electricity remained the biggest gaps; however, winterization activities in both the Vinojug reception centre and the Tabanovce transit site were underway and amplified during the period. In both sites, flooring, additional heating devices and cabling to upgrade the power networks were underway. UNHCR received insulation kits for the rub halls that will be put in place in the coming week. Nine of the additional Refugee Housing Units for Vinojug were erected and 20 IOM containers will also be set up. Flooring in the 22 RHUs in Tabanovce is being replaced.
- The registration process faced some challenges. Refugees complained that the Police did not provide them with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia registration documents after submitting their Greek registration documents. UNHCR observed that, when large numbers of people were in the site, the Police relied on group leaders to distribute the registration documents. UNHCR raised the issue with the Police Commander, who acknowledged the challenge and agreed to monitor the situation. He also concurred that UNHCR would bring these cases to the attention of the authorities as they happen.
- UNHCR continued to observe cases of unaccompanied children aged between 14 and 17 years old registered as adults in Greece (dates of birth 1996). The border Police registered them as adults according to the Greek registration documents in Vinojug; however, their cases were signaled to UNHCR in Tabanovce and UNHCR Serbia for follow-up.
- Since the implementation of restrictions on the nationalities that are granted access to the territory, some arrival patterns are pointing to the re-emergence of smuggling/trafficking routes. A number of individuals arrived in Tabanovce without having passed through the Vinojug transit site, and are without the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia registration paperwork. Many claim they have arrived to the site on foot or with other means. Authorities have also apprehended others in private vehicles. UNHCR and its legal partner, the Macedonia Young Lawyers' Association, advised these individuals on the asylum procedure, but none of them have opted to apply.

Serbia

Achievements and Impact

- In Presevo reception centre (RC), the pellet heating system in the registration hall at the RC and in the main sleeping hall in the Tobacco factory has been completed, with funding from the Norwegian Embassy. In addition, two Remar tents have been 100 per cent winterized; three rub halls have been 80 per cent winterized, with floors completed and heating installed and tested; and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) erected three tents outside the RC. The total waiting capacity in these facilities is over 500 persons. IOM has been working on moving the Miratovac Refugee Aid Point (RAP) to a new location closer to the border, with 36 heated containers and one tent, and waiting capacity of 180 persons. The RAP at the new location officially opened on 17 December, becoming fully functional and with 24/7 coverage.
- In Sid, two MSF rub halls, with waiting capacity of 450 persons, have been completed and are ready for use. On 12 December, UNHCR provided 200 benches to be used in the rub halls. Central heaters have been installed in all five MSF rub halls in Adasevci, with waiting capacity of 1,050 persons.
- The UNHCR Multifunctional Team, led by the UNHCR Senior Field Coordinator, visited Dimitrovgrad, Zajecar, Negotin and Knjazevac, to consolidate support to the Government's efforts to improve reception conditions and humanitarian aid delivery at the eastern border.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The challenge of asylum seekers having to walk 2.5 km on the dirt road from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border to the old Miratovac RAP remains. This led to some people arriving hypothermic to Presevo RC where they received medical assistance. UNHCR and its partners (Danish Refugee Council, MSF, IOM and Mercy Corps) continued coordinated efforts to assist persons with reduced mobility along this track and onward to the Presevo RC. The new Miratovac RAP location closer to the border will reduce some of the exposure to the asylum seekers.
- Potential protection risks of exploitation by smugglers and traffickers remains of concern, particularly for unaccompanied children, asylum-seekers who claim they have no funds to continue their travel and those screened out as not being Syrian, Iraqi or Afghan - hence not allowed to continue the onward travel to Croatia. UNHCR is providing counseling on the asylum procedures in Serbia and referring cases to IOM for Assisted Voluntary Return and is liaising with Centers for Social Work and the Police in the case of unaccompanied children.

Hungary

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partner organizations (Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Menedek and Cordelia) are conducting regular monitoring missions to open reception centres (in Vamosszabadi, Nagyfa and Bicske) and detention facilities (asylum detention, immigration prisons, Alien Police).
- UNHCR monitoring teams and partner organizations continued to identify age-disputed children in detention. UNHCR identified 27 children at asylum detentions/prisons in Bekescsaba Kiskunhalas and Vac. The Hungarian Helsinki Committee intervened to expedite the transfer of children to Fot Children's home.
- UNHCR monitoring teams identified persons with medical and psychosocial needs that are in detention and referred them for assistance to the Cordelia Foundation.
- On 14 December, UNHCR conducted a detention-monitoring visit to Nyirbator asylum detention facility, which hosts 100 persons; most of them originate from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of them had been transferred to Hungary under the Dublin III Regulation. UNHCR is currently working with Hungary Helsinki Committee to provide legal assistance and ensure access to the asylum process.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The transit zones along the Serbian and Croatian borders are either inaccessible or serve primarily as an expulsion channel to Serbia.
- UNHCR is concerned about a new government sponsored xenophobic campaign against refugees, which portrays them as potential terrorists or criminals due to their religion. The new anti-migrants and anti-refugee campaign launched by the Hungarian Government early last week is now running everywhere: radio and TV channels broadcast the video soundtrack, and advertisements are in the print and online media. The campaign is planned to be running in December 2015 and January 2016. This campaign will negatively affect the refugee community integration in Hungary and will put UNHCR partners at risk as anyone supporting refugees is presented as a threat for nationality security.

- Asylum seekers transferred to Hungary under the Dublin Regulation are at risk of being sent to Serbia. According to the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN), 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.
- There are 703 people of concern (PoC) in detention: they are held in OIN asylum detention facilities and Alien Police detention for irregular crossing, pending deportation/expulsion to Serbia (most of them originate from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan).
- Detention conditions for asylum-seekers remain poor. Medical assistance provided at asylum detention facilities remains very basic. Children are kept in asylum detention facilities for long periods without age assessment. UNHCR has identified children in detention during its visits and is working on their transfer to children’s home.

Croatia

Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR rub hall is functional. All new arrivals received food packages and water. Clothing items were available and distributed upon request. Samaritan's Purse backpacks were distributed among women.
- Upon completion of the railway reconstruction, direct train transportation from Sid to WRTC Slavonski Brod onwards to Dobova (Slovenia) was resumed. The alternative temporary arrangement had been in place from 23 November until 10 December 2015
- PoC continued to be counseled by UNHCR and its legal implementing partners on the possibility of seeking asylum in Croatia.
- UNHCR implementing partner, the Croatian Red Cross, provided psychosocial support to more than 850 refugees and migrants.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There has been a shortage of water at the WRTC as the camp management is awaiting the result of water analysis to ensure its safety. The result will be shared with UNHCR and partners when it becomes available. Reserves of water have been available on site for the use of PoC.

Slovenia

Achievements and Impact

- All PoC received dry food packages and water upon arrival. In addition, more than 2,500 PoC received an extra package before departure.
- UNHCR attended a coordination meeting at the invitation of the Civil Protection in Ljubljana. The Slovenian Red Cross, Caritas, Slovenia Philanthropy, Slovenian Global Action (SLOGA) and Doctors of the World (MdM) were present. The purpose of the meeting was to get all the stakeholders working on the refugee crisis together, to strengthen the organization and the response to the crisis.
- In a meeting with the Red Cross, the regional coordinators shared that their reluctance to acknowledge and work with UNHCR at the beginning for the migration flows had grown into appreciation of UNHCR presence and support at the entry and exit points.
- Toilets for men and women have been separated in all centres except for 25 per cent of them in Dobova due to the space limitation. UNHCR is looking for a solution.
- In Sentilj, Wi-Fi is available throughout the facility following installation of internet connectivity and charging stations by NetHope.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Dobova, the high number of arrivals at night is contributing towards the deterioration of the hygiene and sanitation conditions in the centre. UNHCR appealed to the Civil Protection to ensure that these facilities are cleaned in timely manner. The Civil Protection will increase the frequency of cleaning and emptying the toilet facilities. It was also agreed that UNHCR and other humanitarian actors will boost community mobilization efforts to ensure that refugees and migrants assist in tidying up the place before they depart.

Italy

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR assisted the disembarkation of over 800 persons arriving in two different landings following their rescue at sea. Almost 100 per cent of all sea arrivals benefitted from information sessions on procedures, including on asylum.

- UNHCR undertook 15 monitoring visits to reception facilities to strengthen the capacity of authorities to identify protection needs and gaps.
- Under the coordination of the MoI and in cooperation with the EC and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), UNHCR carried out additional information activities for 650 persons from countries eligible for the EU relocation scheme who arrived last week. Targeted information dissemination focused on the obligation to be fingerprinted, which could also increase the pool of relocation candidates.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Following the recent surge in sea arrivals, the Lampedusa hotspot (with a capacity of 380-500) has hosted up to 1,000 persons during the reporting period, including some 110 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Reception conditions have been critical and risks of Sexual and Gender Based Violence persist. Overcrowding and refusal to be fingerprinted triggered tensions. UNHCR has addressed these issues with authorities at central and local level.
- In the Lampedusa hotspot, persons of different nationalities including from refugee producing countries, who refuse to be fingerprinted, are being held for a prolonged period, some since the beginning of November.
- In Sicily, incidents of denied access to asylum procedure were reported for persons who expressed their will to apply for international protection. These cases are closely followed up at central and local level.

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](#) | [INTEROS](#) | [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 Médecins Sans Frontières](#) | [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 Nations Office for Project Services](#) | [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 22 December, **USD 78.6 million** has been received for the SMI, representing **95 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; United Kingdom; United States of America; WFP; AB Trav and Galopp; Atlas Copco AB; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Federation Internationale de Football; Goldman Sachs Gives; Gota Media Group; H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB; Ikea Foundation; Industria de Diseño Textil; Lindex AB; Nordea Bank AB; Pernod Ricard Co; Radiohjälpen; Shroepfer and Hoffmann Foundation; Stadium Sweden AB; Stockholm Globe Arenas; Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget; Tele2 AB; The Church of Latter-day Saint; TRYGG Foundation; UPS Corporate; World Food Programme 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](#)

Europe Refugee Emergency

UNHCR Presence and Key Border Crossings

as of 17 December 2015



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Links:

UNHCR, [Programme seeks 20,000 places for asylum seekers in Greece](#)

UNHCR, [European Commission and UNHCR launch scheme to provide 20,000 reception places for asylum seekers in Greece](#)

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