



Arrivals and Departures: People continued arriving by sea to the Greek shores. No significant fluctuation in their numbers was observed. The ongoing ferry strike delayed departures from the islands to the mainland.

Situation at Borders: At Eidomeni, the border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was intermittently closed leading to thousands of people remaining on site for most of the day. As a result, between mid-day and late night, people were not allowed to enter the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from Greece. This was reported to be due to train transport delays in Croatia which were communicated to the authorities of countries along the route. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, at Tabanovce around 500 people spent the night. Similarly, in Serbia, 700 people were present during the night at the Sid Refugee Aid Point.



Critical Developments

According to media, the leader of the Dutch Social-Democrat party, Diederik Samsom, presented a plan to return refugees and migrants from Greece back to Turkey within days of their arrival. In exchange, Europe would accept between 150,000 and 250,000 from Turkey. The 1951 Refugee Convention states that such return can only take place to countries deemed as safe. Turkey's status is not yet determined as such.

The Greek Alternate Minister of Immigration Policy, Ioannis Mouzalas, mentioned in a press statement that the hotspot facilities will be developed by the end of February and operational by the beginning of March. He also stated that 20,000 reception places are prepared for use. Additionally, a location has been identified for the establishment of a camp-like facility to host 1,000-1,500 relocation candidates in Athens.

Media sources announced that the Swedish Minister of Interior, Anders Ygeman, stated that Swedish authorities are strengthening implementation of return policies for rejected asylum applicants.



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Condition of People: Due to the ongoing ferry strike, more than 5,000 people were present on the Greek Islands unable to travel to the mainland. The capacity to temporarily host people in registration and accommodation facilities remained manageable however congestion is expected in the coming days as the strike continues. People temporarily remaining at the Eidomeni border crossing were hosted in heated rub halls and given food, blankets and other essential items.

Deaths at Sea: In Turkish waters, a boat carrying nine people capsized. One survived by swimming to shore and was hospitalised. The bodies were recovered by Hellenic Coast Guard and the Turkish Coast Guard. On Samos, another boat sank leaving 12 people dead, while 10 were rescued and around 23 remain missing.

According to this statement, around 60,000 asylum-seekers may be rejected and possibly returned. As this remains unconfirmed, UNHCR following up to obtain further information.

Response

UNHCR launched a new and innovative information platform reaching out to Eritreans and Somalis who are considering taking the perilous journey across the Mediterranean into Europe. Telling the Real Story (<http://www.tellingtherealstory.org/>) is a collection of testimonies by persons who have made this voyage. This community-based information project is aimed at helping Eritreans and Somalis to take an informed decision about traveling to Europe and countering the narrative of smugglers and traffickers.

Weather Headlines

- Winds across the Aegean are generally light, although some temporary increases in strength are possible, particularly this weekend. Past event analysis suggests an increased number of arrivals to the Greek Islands is likely to be maintained.
- Temperatures overnight are still quite cold for those people remaining outside for long periods, but it will be quite mild by day.
- A thaw of lying snow across central parts of the region may lead to saturated soil and muddy conditions under foot.



Social Media

- With an estimated 188 tweets and 245 retweets an hour, #refugees continues to trend on Twitter.
- Many individual Twitter accounts have voiced their concerns regarding the proposed practice of possibly returning up to 60,000 people whose asylum applications were rejected in Sweden.
- @wittich tweeted: 'freezing temperatures can't stop #refugees making the long walk to Europe.'



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

11-17 January
1,458
-20% from previous week



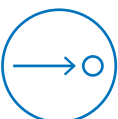
25-27 January
2,197
10% from previous week



18-24 January
2,004
37% from previous week



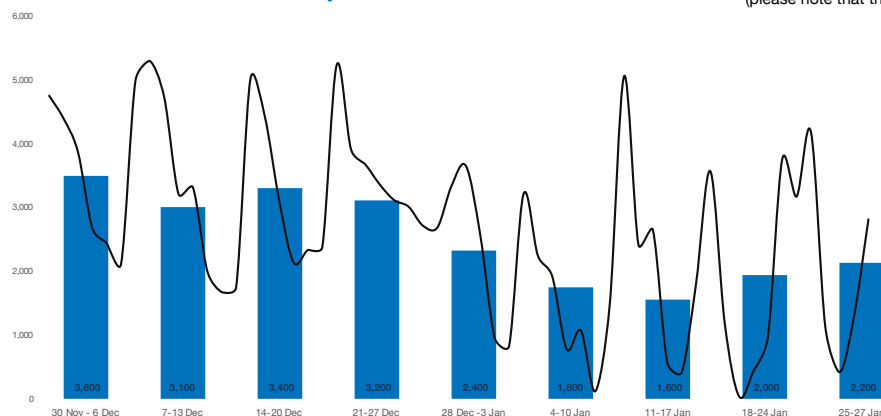
Monthly Average Daily Arrival
January (as of 27 Jan)
1,849
-44% from previous month



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 30 November to 27 January



*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
(please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used only for design purposes)



Weather conditions forecast for Greece and Countries of Onward Movements

Key locations crossed by refugees



Weather Assessment

- Across the Aegean, winds remain generally light, although the wind is expected to strengthen for short periods which may locally increase the height of waves. However, analysis based on previous events would suggest that overall, greater arrivals are expected compared to at the beginning of the week.
- Largely dry and settled conditions have now become established across the region with temperatures also rising compared to earlier

in the week. However, temperatures will still be cold for people exposed for long periods overnight, maintaining a risk of hypothermia and cold related illness.

- A thaw of lying snow across the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and southern Serbia will continue and may lead to muddy conditions under foot. However, significant rain or snowfall is not expected through the remainder of this week.



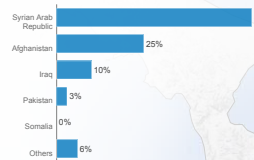
Annex 1

Key Figures from the Portal

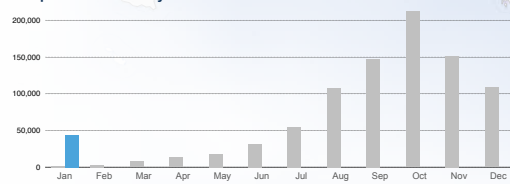
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



44,040 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

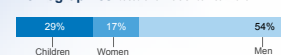
91% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries

© Last updated: 24 Jan 2016

Sea arrivals in 2016

Main routes through the Mediterranean

Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



*Serbia (AND KOSOVO: S/RES/1244 (1999))
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals





Annex 2

Refugee/Migrant Onward Movement Map

