



**Planning and Preparedness:** UNHCR and UNICEF are setting up twenty Child and Family Support Hubs along the transit route, which will provide a safe space for children and their families. UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk, [highlighted](#) that “the hubs will play a key role in identifying unaccompanied children and providing the protection they need in an unfamiliar environment.”

**Arrivals and Departures:** In Greece, according to the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, 22,000 refugees and migrants are present in-country. The government is considering declaring a state of emergency if the situation continues.

Since 5 September 2015 more than 800,000 people have transited Austria. In the same period, some 55,000 asylum applications were recorded.

**Situation at Border Crossings:** In Serbia, 456 instances of refugees and migrants not being permitted to trains to Croatia occurred. 199 people were not permitted to enter Serbia from the former Yugoslav Republic

of Macedonia. In Croatia, some 270 people were returned from Slovenia according to the Croatian Red Cross. Similarly, 17 people were returned from Austria to Slovenia.

**Condition of People:** In Slovenia, 130 people, mostly of Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian nationality, are currently staying at the Vrhnika centre. 30% are male, 24% female and 46% children. According to the Police, they are in the process to be returned to Croatia.

In Hungary, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, György Bakondi, stated, in a press conference, that the Government stands ready to seal its “green” border with Romania, should refugees and migrants start using new routes to enter the country.

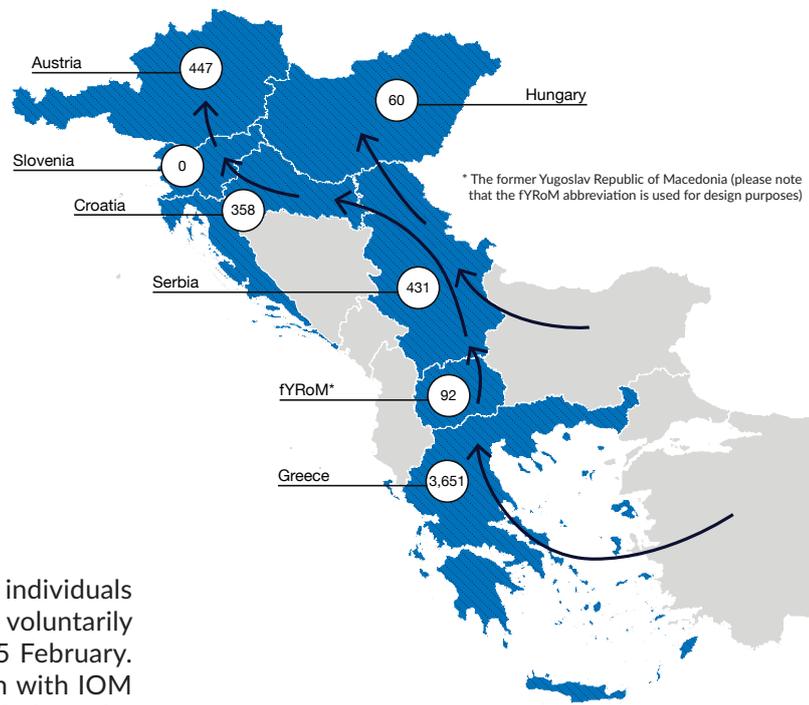
According to [Reuters](#), EU officials fear the potential of human smuggling to increase from Egypt to Europe as security in Libya worsened. Officials declined to comment.

**Deaths at Sea:** None reported.



### Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	3,651
fYRoM*	92
Serbia	431
Croatia	358
Hungary	60
Slovenia	0
Austria	447



### Critical Developments

According to Slovenian Police, eight individuals (seven Iraqis and one Iranian) were voluntarily returned to their country of origin on 25 February. The return was facilitated in cooperation with IOM and financed 75% from EU funds and 25% from the national budget.

According to Turkish Coast Guard, almost 6,800 people, mostly of Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian nationality were found by the Turkish authorities in the first 24 days of February. This compares to around 600 people who were detained in February 2015 and constitutes a 1,000% increase.

### Response

In Greece, at Athens three new sites were opened

to increase the accommodation capacity, which remains insufficient to cover the needs.

### Challenges

Over the past days, widespread protests regarding refugee and migrant issues took place. In Slovenia, citizens demonstrated both in favour and against an increasing number of refugees and migrants transiting through the country. Meanwhile in

Greece, people protested against the setting up of temporary accommodation facilities; while, in Greece and Serbia, refugees and migrants peacefully protested against the restrictions imposed at border crossings.

### Weather Headlines

- Strong winds and rough seas persisting through the Aegean through the rest of Monday and Tuesday, and again later in the week. Some heavy rain at times, but no significant cold weather expected.

### Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece



8-14 February  
**1,147**  
-1% from previous week



22-28 February  
**2,538**  
-8% from previous week



15-21 February  
**2,747**  
140% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival  
February (as of 28 Feb)  
**1,898**  
-2% from previous month



### Social Media

**Facebook Activity:** Facebook group Welcome to Denmark mobilised a peaceful march on 27 February starting in Copenhagen to protest against borders put up in and around EU member states to deny entry to refugees and migrants. As many as 29 other countries, as far as Mexico, participated in the demonstration against the use of border control against refugees and migrants. The group have been operating solely through the use of social media, getting their message through to people through the use of #SafePassage.

**Twitter Activity:** The Twitter account of [Reuters](#) posted about NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg's concerns regarding the fragile state of the Syrian cessation of hostilities amid increasing Russian military build-up in Syria.

**Periscope:** BBC Outside Source live-streamed real-time news; the main focus story was on aid agencies

using the 'window of opportunity' provided by the temporary ceasefire to reach as many as 150,000 people in 5 days in Syria. Areas targeted for aid include Madaya. Other topics discussed included France calling for an immediate meeting of the Syrian task force to discuss the violation of the cessation of hostilities. Although the provisional ceasefire still holds, the agreement has suffered some minor breaches.

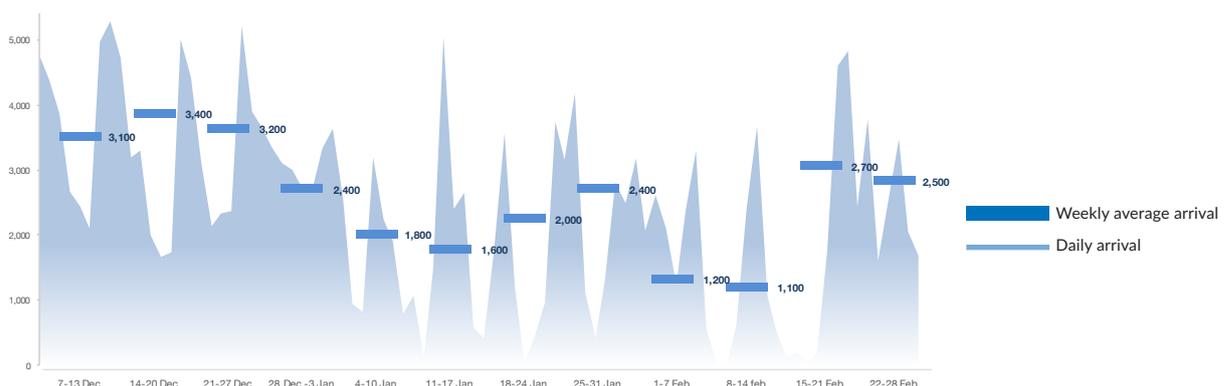
### Current statistics for: #refugeecrisis

71 tweets, 83 retweets per hour  
Over 390,000 impressions per hour  
19.82% of posts using #refugeecrisis originated from the US

### Current statistics for: #Syria

583 tweets, 1,021 retweets per hour  
20.2% of posts using #Syria originated from the US  
15.5% of posts using #Syria originated from the UK

### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 December to 28 February





**Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia**  
Key locations crossed by refugees

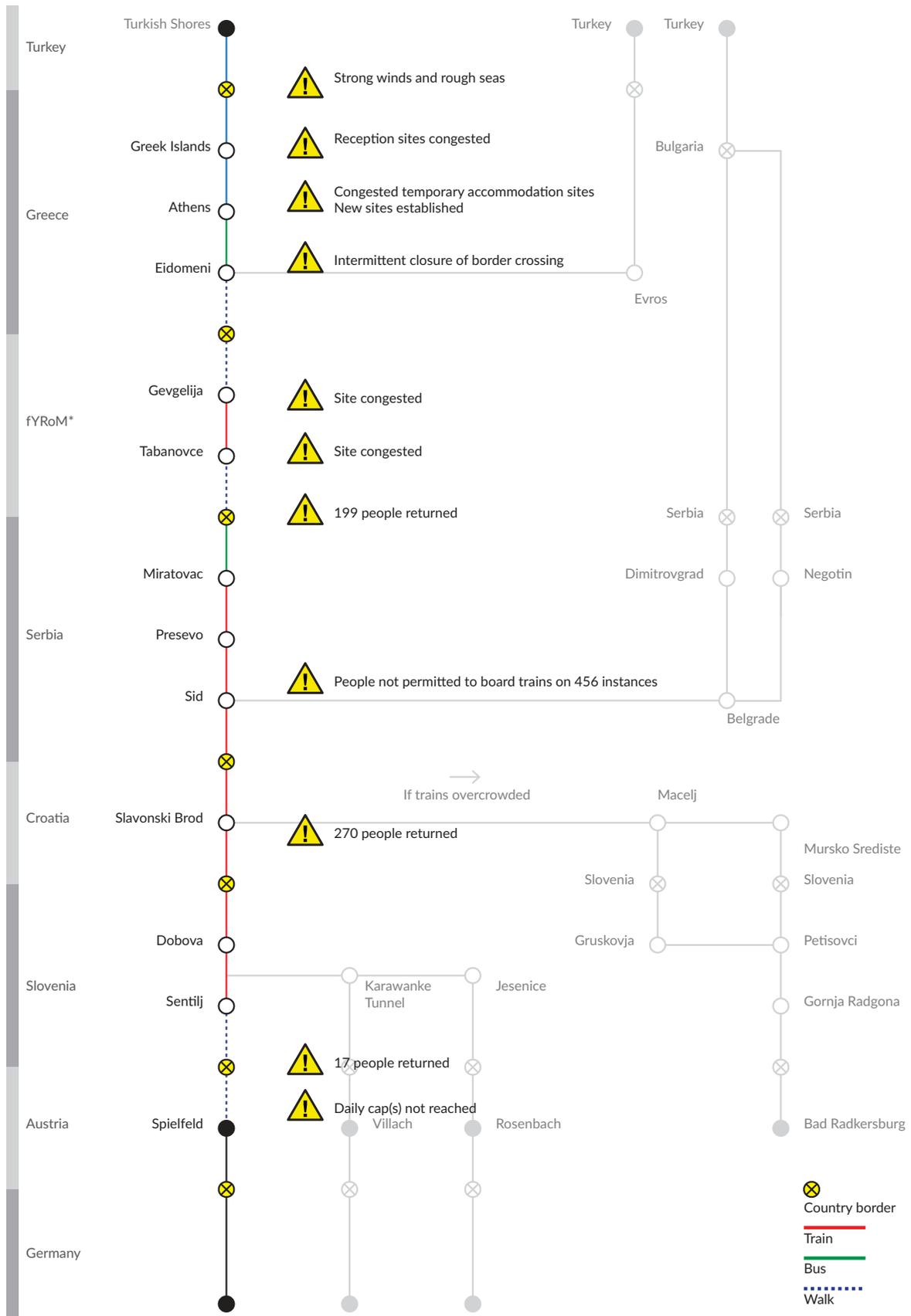


**Weather Assessment**

- Strong to gale force southeasterly winds will develop through the Aegean through the rest of Monday, persisting through Tuesday. Forecast wave heights suggest the sea conditions will be dangerous for small boats travelling between Turkey and the Greek Islands and past event analysis has often shown lower arrivals. The wind will ease temporarily on Wednesday, but will build again through Thursday and Friday bringing similarly challenging conditions.
- It will remain unsettled across the region through the coming week with most places seeing rain at times, with snow generally confined to higher ground. Some heavy and perhaps thundery showers are expected to affect the Greek Islands from Wednesday onwards, with the heaviest rainfall across mainland southeast Europe expected to be along the eastern coast of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.



Situation Overview



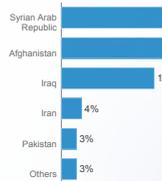


## Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

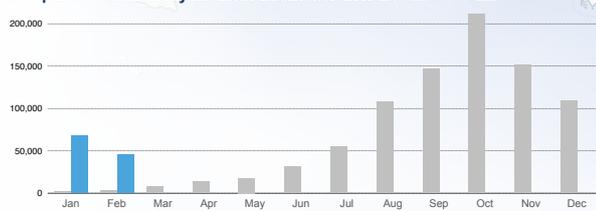
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. 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 2016



### Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



**112,538** arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

**90%** of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries

© Last updated 25 Feb 2016



### Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals





## Annex 2 Last Week in Social Media

### Image of the Week



Kunkush the 'refugee cat' travelled over 2,000 miles to be reunited with his family after becoming separated on their travel from Iraq to Norway. His disappearance sparked an international social media search until the family were located and he was returned.

### During the Week

Lady SOS: [The woman saving Syrian refugees at sea](#)

Nawal Soufy, a 28-year-old Italian-Moroccan, is better known as 'Mama Nawal' and 'Lady SOS'. After providing translation and interpretive services in Italy, she travelled around the Syrian cities of Homs and Aleppo in 2012. Nawal is now a first point of reference for some of those stranded out at sea; some in small dinghies, and others in larger boats with no crew.

When Nawal receives a call, she alerts nearby coastguards, providing coordinates of the boats in need of assistance before going to the docks to provide practical information and basic supplies to the newly-arrived refugees and migrants.

She has now put together a small team consisting of two Syrians, a Palestinian and an Egyptian, some already having received assistance from Nawal in the past.

Syria conflict: [Warring parties accept US-Russia truce plan](#)

The government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the main opposition umbrella group announced they will stop "combat operations" amidst the ongoing war in Syria. This came after an agreement was reached between the United States and Russia, however, the deal does not apply to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of al-Qaeda. Implementation of the cessation of hostilities is also dependent on whether or not government air strikes on civilians comes to an end. The truce is set to begin this weekend. Peace talks which were essentially abandoned in Geneva a few weeks ago could re-commence if the cessation is accepted.

### In case you missed it...

- [Members of British Embassy raise money for Syrians](#) Posted by Simon Manley on Twitter
- [Mass brawl between Syrians, Afghans & Iraqis in \[Belgium\] refugee camp \(video\)](#) Posted on Twitter by Onlinemagazin
- [Comments on Syrian refugees with English subtitles \(video\)](#) Posted on Twitter by homnibus
- [Iceland's first Syrian refugees](#)
- [Dangerous waters – Shadowing the Hellenic Coast Guard's migrant rescues \(video + article\)](#)
- ['Refugee cat' reunited with family](#)

### Current statistics for: #refugees

- 33 tweets & 46 retweets per hour
- Over 50,000 impressions per hour
- 19.27% of tweets using #refugeecrisis originated from the US

Last 7 days: statistics for social media activity using #refugees dropped dramatically in the week beginning 22 February. However, over the weekend there was a combined 5,400 individual tweets, 10,500 retweets and 4,675 impressions made. A possible contributing factor may have been the [double bombing](#) in Homs, Syria which killed a reported 34 people and injured many others.

Statistics also showed that afternoons (3pm) saw the most consistent number of individual tweets and retweets; evenings (between 5pm-8pm) saw the highest number of retweets

### Upcoming events:

International Conference of Refugees and Migrants  
Date: 26-28 February 2016  
Venue: Hamburg, Germany

EU Referendum  
Date: 23 June 2016  
Venue: UK

