

## Weekly Report



### Key Figures

**Mediterranean**  
**318,473**

arrivals by sea in 2016\*

**3,654**

dead/missing in 2016\*

### Trends of Sea Arrivals

In the week from 10 to 16 October, 717 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece from Turkey – a slight decrease from the 898 who crossed the previous week. So far in October, 1,806 people have arrived – an average of 113 per day in comparison to the 103 per day on average that arrived in September. While Lesbos has been the primary arrival site each month in 2016, so far in October, more people have arrived on Samos (697) and Chios (581) than Lesbos (313). As of 16 October, 168,630 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece – 47% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq. Of these, 42% were men, 21% women and 37% children.

In the same week, according to UNHCR estimates, 762 refugees and migrants arrived by sea to Italy – a substantial decrease from the 12,307 who arrived the previous week – with no arrivals taking place for three days of the week. Most had departed from Libya, including one boat with primarily Eritreans on board that had departed from eastern Libya. As of 16 October, 13,082 refugees and migrants had arrived this month in Italy – an average of 818 per day compared to 560 per day on average in September – which has already surpassed the 8,916 who arrived in October 2015. By 16 October, 144,984 refugees and migrants had arrived by sea to Italy in 2016 thus surpassing the 140,987 that arrived in the first ten months of 2015. In 2016, so far 21% of arrivals have been from Nigeria, 13% from Eritrea and 7% each from Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea.

### Key Developments

#### Situation in Greece

As arrivals continue at a similar level to September, several sites on the island continue to be overcrowded with their maximum capacity far exceeded. On Kos, efforts

were being made to assist a group of around 300 people – mostly from Pakistan – who could not be accommodated in the Reception and Identification Centre as the site was already at full capacity. Due to continued arrivals, between 170 and 200 people have no access to any kind of shelter and are forced to sleep in partially-collapsed buildings, makeshift shelters, and in the open air. UNHCR is working closely with Greek authorities to transfer asylum-seekers to UNHCR accommodation on the mainland. At the same time, field officers are finalizing a referral system for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and cases involving sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

On 10 October, a boat with 114 persons on board (including Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans and Iranians) landed on the island of Milos in the Cyclades, closer to the Greek mainland than Turkey. 91 members of the group were subsequently transferred to Leros for further processing. In Evros, in the land border area with Turkey, UNHCR continues to provide information to new arrivals and identify those with specific needs. On 12 October, 58 persons belonging to a group of 213 detained since 05 October were transferred to the Reception and Identification Centre while 57 Syrians and Iraqis from the same group were released and departed to the open accommodation facility of Vagiochiori in Thessaloniki.

On the Greek mainland, around 700 refugee children hosted at accommodation sites started school on 10 October with 45 afternoon reception classes tailored to refugee children at 16 primary and secondary public schools. UNHCR worked closely with the Ministry of Education for the afternoon classes and supported the provision of interpretation services in different locations. Children received a warm welcome from school direc-

### Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 16 October 2016



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 19 October 2016

## Key Figures

### Greece

**717**

Total Weekly  
Arrivals to  
Greek Islands

10 October - 16 October

**102**

Daily Average  
Arrivals to  
Greek Islands

10 October - 16 October

### Italy

**762**

Total Weekly  
Arrivals to Italy

10 October - 16 October

**109**

Daily Average  
Arrivals to Italy

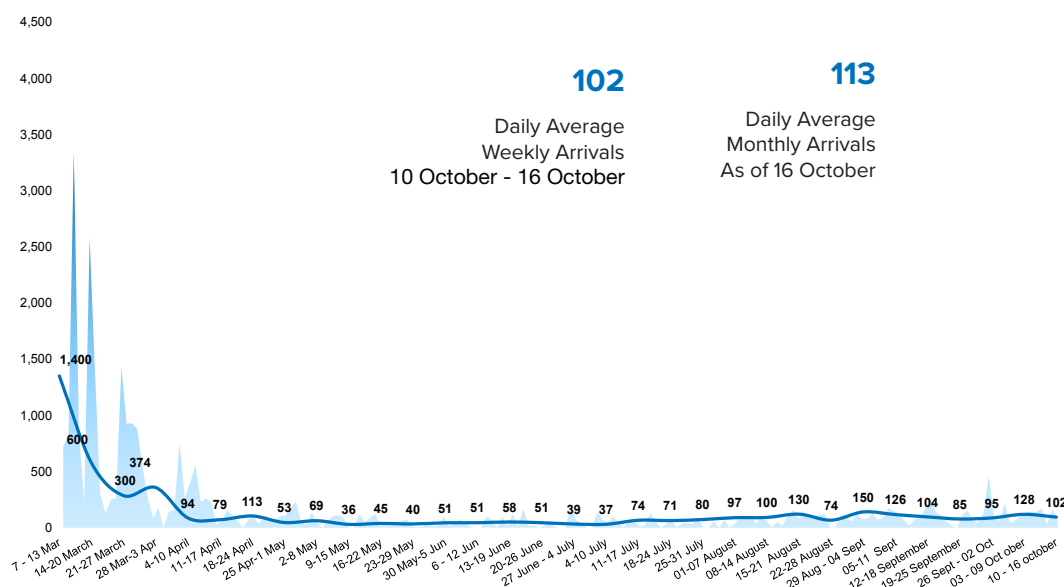
10 October - 16 October

tors, teachers and local residents and there were no incidents at schools where protests previously took place. In Lagkadikia and Profitis in northern Greece, school commenced for 94 refugee children attending both primary and high school while in Konitsa, in western Greece, 30 Syrian children were enrolled in the first class of the local primary school - where they were welcomed by the school principal and the local mayor – along with 16 children in high school. UNHCR provided school bags, stationery and notebooks for refugee children in five sites (Eleonas, Lavrio, Lagkadikia, Derveni-Dion, and Konitsa).

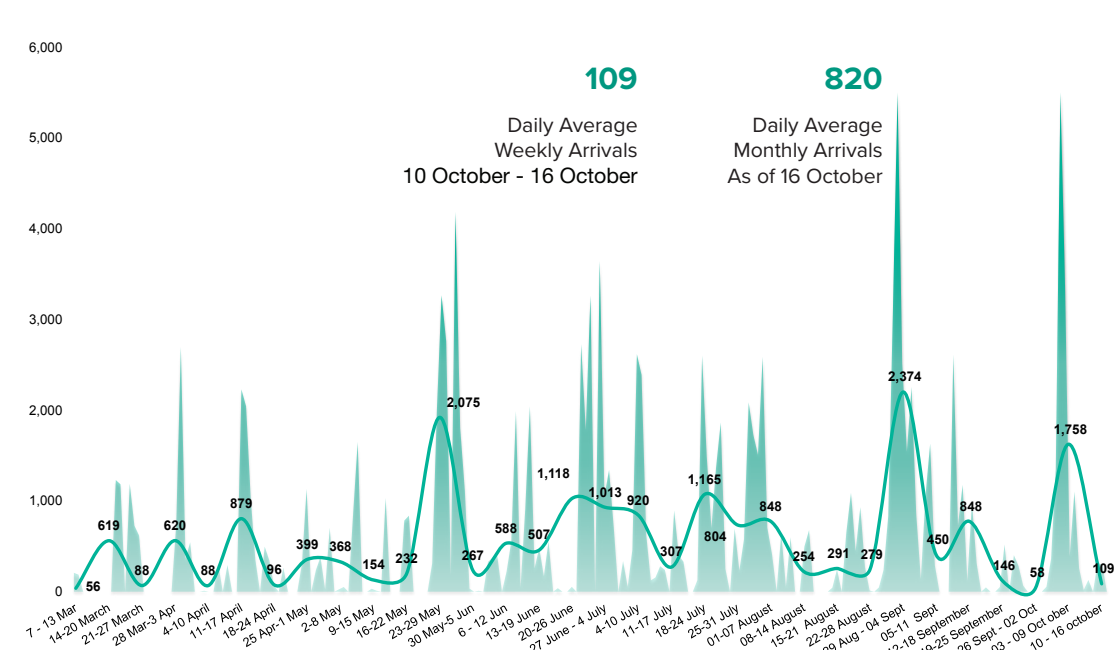
According to Ministry of Education estimates, a maximum of 22,000 refugee children are due to be gradually inducted into 800 reception classes in schools across the country.

In preparation for winter, UNHCR installed 64 accommodation units in Nea Kavala as part of a plan to install up to 175 accommodation units there and around 920 in up to eight different sites. Preparations were being made at Katsikas, Lagkadikia, Fillipiada, Alexandria, and Schisto with plans to also to install housing units in Moria and

### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 16 October 2016



### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 16 October 2016



Kara Tepe sites on Lesbos. UNHCR is the main actor providing containers while eight NGOs are contributing to the distribution of non-food items. UNHCR met last week with its implementing partners to plan the distribution of non-food items for winter such as sleeping bags, thermal blankets, rain ponchos, socks, and warm hats/beanies to up to 40,000 persons this month. Winterisation is underway in Nea Kavala, but yet to be completed with the provision of non-food items and kerosene heaters and similar works are being undertaken in Katsikas, Lagkadia, Chorygi, Schisto, Filippiada and most likely Kara Tepe and Moria.

A meeting was convened on 11 October by the Regional Association Municipalities of Crete island to discuss the accommodation of 2,000 refugees on the island which is anticipated to take place as of the beginning of next year.

The existing national capacity to accommodate unaccompanied children is still insufficient. As of 13 October, there were 1,627 children on the waiting list to be referred to the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) for accommodation. UNHCR is currently providing 522 places for unaccompanied children in 20 transit or longer-term shelters, and is working to open seven new centres to provide an additional 216 places by the end of the year.

For unaccompanied children in protective custody (381 as of 13 October) the Ministry of Migration Policy is looking at creating additional safe spaces in more open sites, as interim emergency measure and an alternative to detention. Three safe spaces for unaccompanied children with capacity for 90 children are already fully operational in Diavata and Lagadikia (both run by Arsis with funding by UNHCR), as well as in Alexandreia (run by

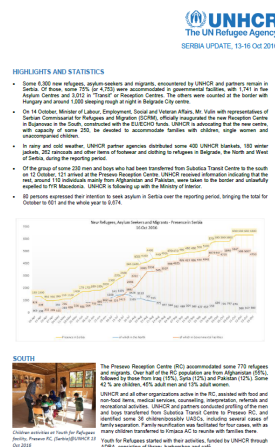
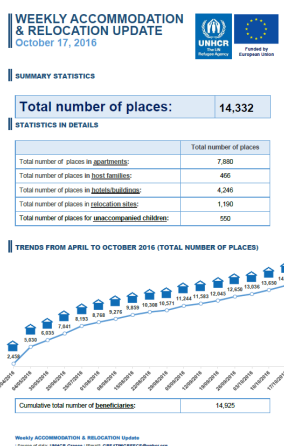
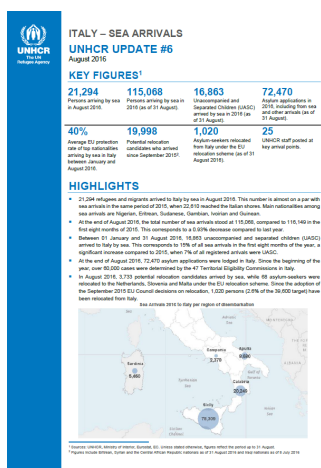
International Rescue Committee). The Child Protection Sub-Working Group has provided guidance in terms of minimum standards for the management of designated safe spaces inside open sites as a temporary measure until suitable shelter is found and recently more detailed recommendations in terms of criteria for site selection and considerations prior to the placement of children has been shared with the Ministry.

## Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

The number of new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants encountered by UNHCR and partners rose from 5,800 the previous week to 6,300, with 75% accommodated in government facilities and the rest staying overnight in Belgrade city centre or at the Hungarian border. With all current governmental accommodation fully occupied (except the Reception Centre in Presevo), around 1,000 refugees and migrants slept rough in the centre of Belgrade – the vast majority from Afghanistan, with others from Iraq, Pakistan and Syria. In the north, the total number dropped to around 380 after authorities transferred 230 men and boys from the Subotica Transit Centre to the south. In the areas outside the ‘transit zones’, 138 people waited for admission to Hungary staying in makeshift tents, relying on assistance provided by UNHCR, partners, NGOs, government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary. Among them, on average 37% were children, 42% men and 21% women with the majority from Syria (39%), Afghanistan (28%) and Iraq (26%).

The waiting period for families and unaccompanied children to access the ‘transit zones’ ranged from 60 to 90 days. Inside the ‘transit zones’, UNHCR provides asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, Dublin procedures and the implications of the safe third country principle. UNHCR Hungary also informs single men detained at the accom-

## Key Documents from the Portal



modation section in the 'transit zones' about their right to appeal, to request legal aid, and to submit additional information in writing within three days of their interview with Hungarian authorities about the reasons for not seeking asylum in Serbia. During the week, 60 single men were held in the 'transit zones' (36 in Röszke and 24 in Tompa).

Following UNHCR's advocacy, the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN) informed UNHCR of their plans to have interpreters physically present in the 'transit zones' who will not only facilitate the registration and other OIN interviews but will also assist with the daily interaction with asylum-seekers inside the 'transit zones'. Moreover, OIN informed UNHCR that they plan to send social workers to accompany asylum-seekers on the buses during their transportation to the open centres.

#### Deaths at Sea

Deaths continue to occur at sea – especially during the crossing from North Africa to Italy. On the night of 12 October, a search and rescue operation was conducted jointly by MOAS and the Italian Red Cross, rescuing 113 persons who had departed from Sabratha, Libya on an inflatable boat but at least 17 persons were missing. Many of those rescued had suffered petrol burns – often the result of petrol from the engine mixing with seawater in the bottom of the boat that refugees and migrants have to sit in. The latest deaths bring the total for 2016 to 3,654 with most deaths continuing to take place in the Central Mediterranean.

#### Update on Relocations

From Italy, 8 asylum-seekers were relocated to Slovenia on 11 October and 20 asylum-seekers were relocated to Luxembourg on 13 October bringing the total relocated from Italy since the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,345 persons (3.2% of the 39,600 target), according to European Commission figures. As of 14 October, 3,809 pledges were received from adhering states.

From Greece, 483 asylum-seekers were relocated during the week contributing to a total of 4,716 (7%) asylum-seekers (of the 66,400 target) who have been relocated from Greece to other EU countries since the beginning of the relocation programme in November 2015. A further 810 pledges were made by EU Member States, including Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and Latvia that pledged 500, 100, 80 and 30 places, respectively, reaching a total of over 10,355 since the EU relocation programme began in September 2015. As of 16 October, an additional 446 places were established by the accommodation capacity project in support of the relocation program funded by the European Union, reaching a total of 13,679 (68% of the 20,000 target of UNHCR

and its partners by the end of 2016). A cumulative total of over 14,700 persons have benefitted from the project since November 2015.

#### Update on Readmissions from Greece to Turkey

On 13 October, 25 persons (11 Algerians, six Pakistanis, four Moroccans, two Sri Lankans, an Afghan and a Palestinian) were returned to Turkey from Lesvos in accordance with the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March bringing the total returned under the Statement to 668. The majority were returned after their asylum applications were rejected, including on appeal. In addition, a further 30 persons (27 Afghans and three Iranians) were returned at the same time under the Greece-Turkey Readmission Protocol as they did not apply for asylum. All were transferred from Dikili port in Turkey to the Pehlivanköy Resettlement Centre in Kırklareli for further processing. Three Turkish nationals were also returned in accordance with the EU-Turkey readmission agreement after not applying for asylum.

#### EU Related Developments

On [13 October](#), at the Justice and Home Affairs Council, EU Home Affairs Ministers focused on migration and asylum. Among other issues, they discussed the EU-Turkey Statement, the situation in Greece and Italy, as well as the relocation and resettlement schemes. As [action points](#), Ministers committed to pledging more experts for deployment to EU Agencies (in particular EASO deployment). On the reform of the Common European Asylum System, Ministers endorsed the three-pronged strategy proposed by the Slovak Presidency. The Slovak Presidency suggested to (i) focus in particular on the proposals for a [recast EURODAC Regulation](#) and for a [EU Agency for Asylum](#), with the view to reaching a consensus in the Council before the end of their mandate; (ii) in parallel, continue discussions on the proposals for a [recast Dublin Regulation](#), [Asylum Procedures Regulation](#), [Qualification Regulation](#) and [recast Reception Conditions Directive](#) and (iii) initiate the technical examination of the proposal for a [EU Resettlement Framework](#). Ministers also discussed IT measures related to border management, stressing the importance of security considerations, while ensuring that the Council's position strikes a right balance between security and free-movement. On 13 October, the Council also formally adopted the [Regulation](#) establishing a uniform European travel document for the return of third-country nationals by signing off on the compromise agreement reached with the European Parliament. The Regulation specifies, in particular, the travel document's format, security features and technical aspects. According to the Slovak Presidency, the document [will](#) "contribute to the effective return of third-country nationals".



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## Timeline Overview

### Highlights

