



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH**

**14,196**

Persons that benefited from the Accommodation for Relocation project since November 2015

**13,036**

Accommodation places with services for relocation candidates/other asylum seekers established since January in line with UNHCR policy on alternatives to camps. Cash/voucher assistance granted to 5,804 relocation candidates.

**488**

Accommodation places for unaccompanied children established by UNHCR in Greece

**3,329**

Asylum seekers transported by UNHCR to the Regional Asylum Offices for full registration of their asylum claim during the month

**107,649**

Core Relief Items distributed during August such as blankets, hygiene kits, etc. (70,029 on the mainland and 37,620 on the islands)

**195**

Water and Sanitation facilities (prefab shower and toilets) provided to partners and cleaned on monthly basis.

**719**

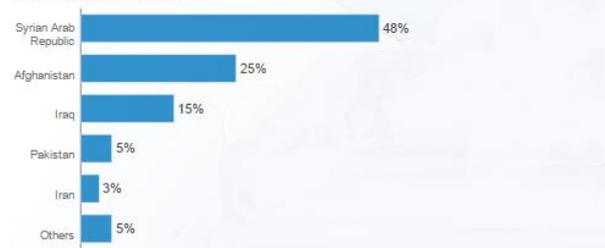
Shelter upgrading solutions (family tents, Refugee Housing Units, metal/folding beds) provided in mainland in August

**42**

Inter-agency coordination sectoral working groups established and chaired/co-chaired by UNHCR at country and field levels

**Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals to Greece**

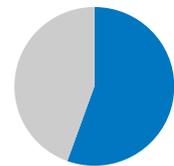
Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals to Greece based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



**Funding USD 300 million requested**

**USD 166.7 million received**

Gap  
45%



Funded  
55%

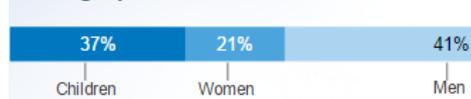
**Dead and missing**

272 dead- 152 missing (2015)

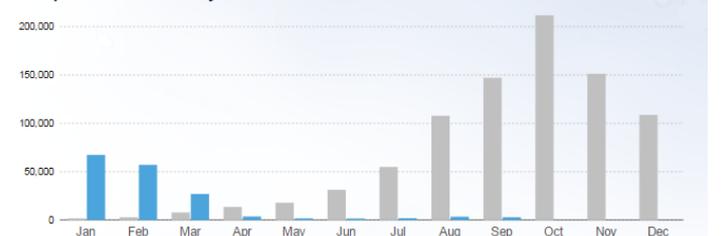
142 dead- 51 missing (31 July 2016)

(Source: Hellenic Coast Guard, Greek territorial waters)

**Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016**



**Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals to Greece**



**UNHCR Presence**

Staff: **332** national (252) and international (80) staff working in UNHCR

**5** international staff on mission until 30 September (Emergency Deployment)

**248** national staff deployed in support of Greek authorities

**Technical Unit**

	National	International
Shelter/Site Planning	5	3
Health	1 (+ 1 being recruited)	1
WASH	3	3
Site Management Support	6	4

**Offices:**

- 1** Representation office Athens
- 5** Offices on the mainland (Thessaloniki, Polykastro, Larissa, Ioannina, Attica)
- 6** Offices on the islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros, Kos, Rhodes)

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

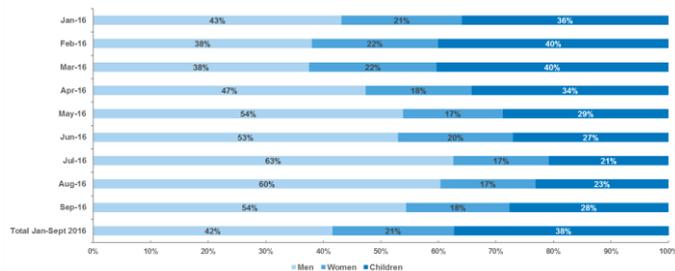
On the mainland, asylum seekers are increasingly concerned with the prospect of a long waiting period for full registration interviews while living in substandard conditions, and experiencing upcoming winter at the sites. In close coordination with the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy and thanks to funding from the [European Commission – Humanitarian Aid](#), UNHCR and partners are focusing on responding to the winterization needs including shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs), complemented by the continuous efforts to expand the alternative accommodation places scheme in urban settings. Heavy rains and lower temperatures in Northern, Western and Central Greece already created damages to the sites in early September. UNHCR promptly responded by providing NFIs and shelter improvements (gravelling, replacement of tents, etc.).

On the Aegean Islands, a total of **3,080** people arrived in September compared to **3,447** arrivals in August. Since April, 15,372 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece, in comparison to 372,628 in the same period in 2015. Lesvos and Chios recorded the highest number of arrivals during the month, corresponding to 36% and 27% of total new arrivals, respectively. Returns to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement continued although in limited numbers, with a total of 578 people returned since 20 March 2016. People returned were rejected asylum seekers, persons who decided to withdraw their asylum application or to voluntarily return to Turkey. Tensions reached dangerous heights on Lesvos Island on 19 September at [Moria Reception and Identification Centre \(RIC\)](#) as fires broke out in and around the centre, hosting some 4,400 people (official figures). Around 95 unaccompanied children were transferred to the Pikpa accommodation centre nearby for security reasons during the incident, but have since returned to Moria along with other residents. The fire did not cause any casualties, but at least 30 people are reported to have minor injuries and were taken to hospital. Among material damages, over 50 UNHCR Refugee Housing Units, accommodating some 800 people, were completely destroyed. UNHCR in coordination with other partners and authorities installed 130 tents, provided by IRC, and 14 UNHCR family tents. UNHCR has shared a list with the Registration and Identification Service (RIS) of those whom have lost their documents for the reissuing of replacements.



A Syrian family waiting to be relocated to another EU country talks to UNHCR Executive Committee Chair, Ambassador Carsten Staur, in their apartment provided by UNHCR through its partner Praksis, under the accommodation scheme funded by the European Union. © UNHCR/C. Wolf, 6 September 2016

The Chair of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme (ExCom), His Excellency Ambassador Carsten Staur, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office at Geneva, visited Greece from 5 to 7 September 2016. The visit’s purpose was for him to get acquainted with UNHCR’s activities in the country and pay tribute, on behalf of the ExCom Member States, to the Greek Government and its people for their generosity shown in receiving refugees and migrants. The ExCom Chair travelled to Chios Island, Athens and Northern Greece, and met with refugees, Greek authorities, EU agencies, humanitarian actors, diplomatic missions, and donors. He also participated in an honoring ceremony organized by UNHCR on 6 September for the Greek winners of the Nansen Refugee Award: the Hellenic Rescue Team, and Efi Latsoudi from the community-run Pikpa accommodation centre in Lesvos.



Breakdown of Men, Women and Children arrived by month (January – August 2016). The sum of shares may differ from 100% because of rounding effects. Source: Hellenic Police based on partial data.

Nationalities	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16
Syrian Arab Republic	30,309	29,412	14,399	1,268	525	459	510	1,112	866
Afghanistan	18,846	13,943	6,133	580	270	215	201	324	479
Pakistan	2,243	1,539	1,880	637	231	233	345	737	513
Iraq	11,964	9,134	2,515	381	162	183	104	327	497
Iran	2,193	1,593	674	73	64	51	73	123	155
Other	1,860	1,445	1,370	711	469	413	687	824	570
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,415</b>	<b>57,066</b>	<b>26,971</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>3,447</b>	<b>3,080</b>

Arrivals by nationality per month during 2016. Source: Hellenic Police/Hellenic Coast Guard

## INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

- The coordination of the response is the primary responsibility of the Alternate Minister of Interior in charge of Migration Policy. Several line Ministries participate or chair one of the **42 sectoral working groups** which are supported by UNHCR to ensure efficient coordination, both at national and field level. **Over 40 national and international NGOs are participating in 12 national level working groups, including 8 governmental counterparts.** National Level Sector and Technical Working Groups are established in Protection, including Child Protection and Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Communications with Communities, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Shelter and NFIs, including Transports and Logistics, Cash, Site Management Support, WASH and Education. UNHCR, in partnership with the government and co-chaired by sector specific NGOs, provides national sector



leadership. In the context of the refugee emergency, sector coordination structure, guided by the inter-sectors, are responsible for activating and delivering immediate response and emergency assistance delivery, as well as harmonizing assistance packages, creating strategies to improve the response, guiding staff in the field offices implementing programmes, ensuring links with other sectors and coordinating to ensure full coverage and avoid gaps in the response. To facilitate program planning, UNHCR continued to update a number of important analytical information products available at the [data portal](#).

- The UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordinator alongside the NFI Working Group coordinator facilitated an inter-agency session on 'Urban Living', triggering a lively debate between local and international humanitarian actors on what should be the strategic objectives of an **urban living strategy**. It was agreed that such a strategy would need to be phased and should involve both immediate objectives to address unmet needs, but also longer term approaches that will look at local integration, harmony within communities and livelihoods.

## MAINLAND RESPONSE

### Protection

- **Provision of information.** UNHCR continued to conduct group and individual information sessions on asylum in Greece, family reunification and relocation and on the procedures following the pre-registration exercise for the full lodging of asylum claims, with the [Greek Asylum Service](#) and EASO. Since 1 September, the first notifications of appointment for full registration from the Asylum Service were sent to asylum seekers through the UNHCR-supported text message (SMS) system. The appointments for October were sent as of mid-September and continuously until end March 2017 when the Asylum Service expects to complete the full lodging of asylum claims. Further information dissemination about the appointment dates is done by UNHCR through calling each asylum seeker (in cooperation with EASO call-team), posting on sites the appointment schedule, and ensuring outreach through UNHCR field teams and NGOs on the sites. In addition to user-friendly appointment lists i.e. sorted by date and site, UNHCR has prepared Q&A, call check list, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) on transportation. UNHCR continues to coordinate the Legal Sub-Working Group meetings in order to offer access as much as possible to the same legal services in the different sites as well as harmonized information to avoid confusion.
- **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response.** UNHCR revived the SGBV sub-working group with the relevant actors to try to address the major existing challenges i.e. developing standardized response to SGBV among members, capacity building for partners, actors including volunteers and filling the gaps in case of non-presence of SGBV/protection partners.
- **Child protection.** In support of the Greek authorities' efforts to expand the reception capacity for unaccompanied children (UACs) in the country and with the aim to avoid detention, UNHCR through partners is providing **488 places for unaccompanied children in 20 transit or longer-term shelters**. Out of these, **12 structures are located in the mainland** (8 in Attica and 4 in Northern Greece). UNHCR is working to open seven new centres to provide **216 additional places** by the end of the year. UNHCR is providing 50% of the total places for unaccompanied minors in the country. As an interim measure and to ensure proximity with their community of origin at the sites, three Safe Spaces for UACs, with the capacity of 90 children, continue to be fully operational in Diavata, Alexandria and Lagadikia. An additional Child Friendly Space was successfully established in Trikala, Central Greece.
- **Support to accommodation capacity for asylum seekers.** In support of the Greek authorities' efforts to expand reception capacity for asylum seekers, UNHCR's accommodation project funded by the [European Union](#) reached **13,036 places** as of 30 September, representing more than 65% of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016. During the reporting period, **2,465 new accommodation spaces** were established. Over **14,196 persons benefitted from the project** so far, which includes the cumulative number of current and past places occupied, persons relocated to EU Member States and irregular departures and/or abandons.



*The CEO of IKEA Foundation Mr. Per Hegggenes was warmly welcomed by the relocation candidates, currently residing in an apartment managed by UNHCR's partner ADDMA-Municipality of Athens. IKEA Foundation CEO also visited a shelter for unaccompanied children managed by UNHCR's partner Praksis. © UNHCR/W.N. Cha, 1 September 2016*

### Education

- **Ministerial decisions for afternoon reception classes** and for reception classes for refugee children individually enrolled in morning classes were issued in September. Establishment of reception structures for the education of refugee children hosted in open accommodation sites will be: 1) annexes of nursery schools (children 4-5 years old) within the sites, and 2) primary and secondary education (children 6-12 and 13-15) organized in schools, in exceptional cases in the sites. One Refugee Education Coordinator will be appointed in each site and they will be responsible for the operation of reception structures for the education of refugee children, information of refugees, implementation of Ministry of Education (MoE) educational policy, updating lists of pupils, monitoring and coordination of educational activities and recording needs. The curriculum for primary education will be: Greek language, English, Math,

Gymnastics, ICT, Art, Music, and Theatre. For secondary education it will be: Greek language, English, Math, Gymnastics, Information Technology, Culture and Activities.



*Refugee kids having classes at the community-based school established in Thermopyles, Central Greece, supported by UNHCR through provision of bags and stationary. UNHCR/M. Kashoor, 22 September 2016*

- **UNHCR Greece's Education Team** met with the Advisor to the General Secretary to the MoE, offering UNHCR's support with the organization of reception classes for refugee children. UNHCR will be able to support with **education material for secondary students** (13-15 years old). UNHCR's main priorities on education are: 1) advocacy on **access to education for all refugee children and youths** with special focus on **including education for refugee children at the islands** in the MoE plans and for the Ministry to prepare various **education options for youth, including UAC**; 2) support the MoE in **communication with refugee parents and local communities**; 3) advocacy on **gradual integration** of refugee children into the Greek school system and to **adult education** e.g. e-learning for University students and Greek language learning for refugees.

- UNHCR continued to support national and regional level coordination between education actors including the MoE. The **national Education Sector Working Group** met every second week. The MoE participated actively in the group. Issues as information to refugee parents were discussed vividly and a Questions and Answers (Q&A) guide for field

staff and parents was developed. Regional Education Sector Working Groups (ESWGs) are held regularly in Attica and Thessaloniki with the support from Save the Children. The Regional ESWGs ensure good coordination between education actors and coordinate with the Regional Directors of Education.

## Shelter and Core Relief Items

- **Shelter.** In September, UNHCR continued to support the **30,000** accommodation places to be established by the Greek authorities, thanks to the generous contribution of [European Commission humanitarian aid department](#). A total of **1,562 shelter upgrading interventions** were provided by UNHCR, including installation of **1,450 folding/metal beds, 46 UNHCR family tents, and 16 Refugee Housing Units**, among others. In **Northern Greece**, UNHCR installed **25 solar light poles** in Alexandria, Diavata, Nea Kavala, Petra Olympou, and Vasilika/Redestos, in order to increase security and protection at the sites, and particularly prevent SGBV incidents. UNHCR has also installed **73 benches** in Alexandria, Diavata, Karamalis, Frakapol, Oreokastro, Softex, Kavala and Kalochori sites in Northern Greece. UNHCR **office containers** were also established in Vasilika/Redestos, Petra Olympou, Alexandria and Veria, ensuring safe space for field staff and private space to conduct protection counseling. In Lagadikia site, UNHCR introduced a pilot exercise to issue **barcoded residents cards**. The pilot is proceeding with 100 cards issued and digital photos taken of approximately half the population.
- **Core Relief Items.** In September, a total of **70,029 Core Relief Items** were distributed **throughout the mainland**, including **38,072 hygiene items, 18,150 blankets, 5,914 sleeping mats**, mattresses and rubber mats, **4,000 recyclable plastic bags**, among others. On 7-8 September, heavy rains over two days caused flooding in 12 sites in Northern Greece, affecting approximately 2,000 refugees. Following a **rapid response assessment** by the UNHCR Technical Team, UNHCR provided almost 8,000 Non-Food Items, including 5,700 medium thermal blankets, 1,400 raincoats, 400 plastic sheets, 30 family tents, 145 plastic tarpaulins, 60 mats and 70 wooden pallets. All interventions were facilitated on the ground by UNHCR, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with assistance from volunteers from the refugee communities. Large scale distribution of NFIs, including blankets and winter clothing, will be conducted by UNHCR in October 2016 as part of the winterization plan.

## Cash Assistance

- UNHCR's tender for financial service providers was extended until **19 September 2016**. This was done in order to give time for proposals to be submitted, allow for more companies to bid, hold a bidders' conference to clarify questions financial institutions might have, meet with the Ministry of Finance/Central Bank of Greece to request for outreach support to national banks, and to simplify the request for proposals in one pager. UNHCR met with potential financial services providers such as MasterCard, Piraeus Bank, Western Union, among others. In total, eight proposals were received and are being technically and financially reviewed, in order to select at a minimum two companies to deliver financial assistance to refugees by no later than **January 2017**. Harmonization among cash values and between emergency and accommodation programs overall are taking place between now and the end of the year. **Cash and voucher assistance continues to be provided to at least 5,804 individuals** eligible for relocation under UNHCR's accommodation project. About 30-40% of the refugee population is being assisted with cash from UNHCR and its partners via accommodation and emergency response programs in sites. There is a need for urgent expansion of the programme to avoid tensions and movement among sites.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR continued to support **community-based interventions**, aimed at encouraging refugees and migrants' participation in the day-to-day activities at each site, for empowering them and reducing the level of frustration in the population. In **Northern Greece**, UNHCR's implementing partner Intersos, has been working on small scale project proposals together with 12 partners selected from the local Greek community, aiming at vocational training and recreational activities involving refugees. The activities will be rolled out in nine

sites: Vasilika/Redestos, Derveni, Softex, Diavata, Oreokastro, Veria, Alexandria, Drama and Kavala. Another two sites are still under discussion with UNHCR and government representation. In addition, to better engage with the refugee community, UNHCR Protection staff is actively working on establishing community structures in all the sites. During the last three weeks of September, **25 children from Vasilika/Redestos site, were trained** by UNHCR at Kaftanzoglio Stadium in Thessaloniki, for the **5<sup>th</sup> International Thessaloniki Night Half Marathon**, which will take place on 8 October 2016. Around 200 refugees are planned to take place in the race, with UNHCR's support, including sport clothing and footwear, transportation from the sites to the city, and participation fee. Likewise in Redestos/Vasilika, UNHCR established one Refugee Housing Units for its partner Save the Children to conduct English and Greek language lessons until they install their own tents.

- On 12 September, **Eid-Al-Adha was celebrated** with enthusiasm. In **Attica**, dance parties for women and football games between sites took place, in collaboration with DRC and the NGO Emfasis. In **Western Greece**, arrangements were made by UNHCR through a local catering company to deliver 1,700 packs of sweets to all refugees in the Epirus sites (Serres, Katsika, Filipiada, Doliana, Tsepelovo, Konitsa). In **Northern Greece**, on 16 September, the Municipality invited the refugee community from Vasilika/Redestos to participate in a festival celebrating Thessaloniki's long history of different population movements. Refugees cooked food from Syria to share with the local community. UNHCR sponsored the cooking ingredients and assisted in organizing the event which proved to be such a success among hosting and refugee communities.



The participants showed great interest and satisfaction to the exclusive guided tour and snacks at the Cycladic Art museum café. © UNHCR/Y. Kyvernitis, 23 September 2016

- On 20 September, as part of the **European Heritage Days** programme, a total of 31 beneficiaries of UNHCR's accommodation in two separate groups went on an excursion to the **Cycladic Art Museum**. An English and Arabic interpreter was provided by UNHCR. "I only read about Greek civilization in books but today I saw the real thing" said Haya (16), one of the participants. "And I am amazed about the similarities of our histories".

### Logistics

- UNHCR continues to support the process of full registration of asylum seekers conducted by the Asylum Service through provision of country-wide transportation from sites to the Asylum Service Offices and back. As of 30 September, UNHCR provided **transportation to over 3,329 asylum seekers** from various sites across mainland Greece including 529 in Attica and 2,800 from Northern Greece to the Regional Asylum Offices in Athens, Alexandroupoli and Thessaloniki. Different forms of transport have been used (UNHCR vehicles, provision of bus/train tickets and taxis), depending on the distance, accessibility to public transportation, and the specific needs of the asylum seekers. Transportation continues to be provided by UNHCR also to relocation candidates.

## ISLANDS RESPONSE

### Protection

- Support to people with specific needs (unaccompanied children and prevention of SGBV).** UNHCR continued to identify and assist new arrivals with specific needs. On the Aegean islands, UNHCR provides a total of **8 shelters for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)**. On **Samos**, UNHCR provided **43 accommodation places for UASC** and **48 accommodation places for asylum seekers with specific needs**, through partners as well as in hotels. On **Kos**, a new transit facility was established in September by UNHCR and Save the Children, with a capacity to accommodate 40 minors. During September, **UNHCR in Kos provided accommodation to 65 UASC at the UNHCR-Praxis (32 minors) and UNHCR-Save the Children (33 minors) transit facilities.**
- Connectivity.** On **Samos**, UNHCR completed the **installation of NetHope WiFi equipment** for refugees and migrants in Vathy Reception and Identification Centre (RIC). Through three wide range access points, up to 80% of the population in the RIC will have access to WiFi.

### Education

- On **Samos**, in view of the authorities' efforts to integrate refugee children in the public school system and in support of community engagement and peaceful coexistence between refugees and the local population, the Municipality of Samos and UNHCR provided backpacks filled with **school supplies to 100 Greek children**. In a small ceremony children and parents received the bags which included notebooks, stationary and a 25 Euro voucher for sportswear – **similar packages are available to refugee children who will be attending preparatory/reception classes.**

### Health

- UNHCR continued to provide new arrivals with **primary health care** through its partner WAHA. On **Leros**, 306 refugees were examined by WAHA medical unit in September, currently sited at PIKPA accommodation facility for persons with specific



Setting up of the RHU to be used as a mobile health clinic by UNHCR partner, WAHA © S. Stogiannou, September

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)



needs. To support the medical consultations, UNHCR provides transportation using a minivan, and during September **492** refugees were transported. Additionally, an extensive campaign on scabies treatment was conducted during September for **120** refugees, by the Reception and Identification Service (RIS), in collaboration with UNHCR, Praksis, Samaritan's Purse and WAHA. Furthermore, **300 medical booklets** were distributed to all medical staff operating in Lepida RIC.

- On **Kos**, WAHA has stepped in to grant access to medical services to the residents of the new annex of the Pyli Reception and Identification Centre (RIC), which was created by the authorities with the support of UNHCR due to the overcrowding of the site. UNHCR moved a Refugee Housing Unit from Kalymnos Island to be used for this purpose. Throughout September, **950** medical examinations were provided. Moreover a massive campaign to eradicate scabies was conducted by WAHA to prevent health risks.

## Food Security and Nutrition

- On **Leros**, UNHCR's partner Arsis provided wheat for the production of bread to refugees accommodated under UNHCR/Arsis accommodation scheme. UNHCR's partner Samaritan's Purse distributed 100 boxes of toasted bread in Lepida RIC and refugees accommodated under UNHCR/Arsis accommodation scheme. In addition, Samaritan's Purse distributed boxes of toasted bread in the Municipality Hospital.

## Water and Sanitation



Installation of WASH blocks at the new annex of the RIC. © UNHCR/S. Stogiannou, September 2016

- UNHCR, through its partner Samaritan's Purse, implemented a series of WASH interventions in September, leading to significant improvements in living conditions. On **Samos**, UNHCR through its partner Samaritan's Purse installed **four showers** and built four **laundry stations**. Improvement works to existing WASH infrastructure continued as well. On **Leros**, UNHCR contracted a local technician/sub-contractor until 22 November 2016 for the maintenance of certain infrastructure works in Lepida RIC, especially **sewage system** and the **pumping mechanisms**. UNHCR also provided pumps, which had been installed by Municipality staff for the proper operation of the sewage system in the RIC and the support of the liquid waste treatment plant of the psychiatric facility, currently connected to the sewage network of the RIC. On **Kos**, UNHCR upon coordination with the Army installed 2 WASH blocks, 4 water taps and 6 chemical toilets for the refugees living at the new RIC annex.

## Shelter and Core Relief Items

- Shelter.** Activities continued for expanding the reception capacity of the Greek authorities at the sites on the Aegean Islands, which are generally overcrowded, and advocating for alternatives to detention. On **Leros**, UNHCR's partner Samaritan's Purse conducted a fire prevention campaign following the fire outbreaks that took place in September. Signs and posters were placed also to several spots in the shelter area of Lepida RIC to assist and guide refugees in case of fire related incidents. On **Kos**, the **new temporary site** established by the Greek authorities and UNHCR to expand the RIC consists of 16 UNHCR family tents that will provide accommodation to approximately 130 refugees and migrants. UNHCR also conducted rehabilitation interventions related to **plumbing and electric needs** throughout September at the accommodation area of the RIC, while shelter and WASH technical support was offered at the new annex in order to improve the living conditions of the persons residing there. Moreover, a charging station started operating at the annex for its residents. The waiting areas, which were created in July were further equipped with 15 tables and benches. Furthermore, UNHCR in an effort to provide better access to communication at the RIC, commenced the installation of internet.
- Alternative accommodation facilities.** As agreed by the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Mr. Ioannis Mouzalas, the first transfer of persons with specific needs whom have been declared admissible to seek asylum in Greece and possess asylum seeker cards took place from Chios and Lesvos Islands. Persons with specific needs currently hosted in appropriate schemes on the islands (i.e. apartments, hotels) provided by UNHCR or partners would not be moved for the time being, unless appropriate spaces for them are identified in the mainland. UNHCR is also exploring the establishment of further accommodation facilities on the islands through the identification of more hotels and apartments to host asylum seekers with specific needs. Thanks to these efforts, Dipethe site in Chios was closed and asylum seekers have been moved to Souda site, hotel or apartments.
- Core Relief Items.** In September, UNHCR distributed a total of **37,620 Core Relief Items on the Aegean islands**, including 25,679 hygiene items, 3,635 mats and sleeping bags, and 4,480 blankets, among others. Distributions were conducted directly and through the partner Samaritan's Purse.



UNHCR tents set up in an open area, outside the Pyli RIC of Kos, for the accommodation of new arrivals. © UNHCR/S. Stogiannou, September 2016

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- On **Lesvos**, UNHCR with the support of the Aegean University and in collaboration with RIS, Save the Children and Mercy Corps started wall painting projects for children in Moria on 16 September, as part of the community-based initiatives. Following authorization by the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, walls were identified in consultation with the Army, including those of the area for unaccompanied children in the RIC and the child friendly spaces.



*Refugee and Greek children starting the bicycle race organized by UNHCR and the Municipality of Athens in support of the European Mobility Week. © UNHCR/R. De Jung, 30 September 2016*

- On **Samos**, through UNHCR's active advocacy and liaison with relevant local administrative offices, the labor rights granted to registered asylum seekers became practically accessible (pursuant to Law 4375/2016 and circular 17131/313 issued by the Ministry of Labor, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity). Some asylum seekers have already succeeded in obtaining social security and tax numbers and are screening job offers accordingly.

In the spirit of [European Mobility Week "Intelligent mobility, Strong economy"](#) and in collaboration with the Municipality of Samos, UNHCR offered three children's bicycles with safety equipment as a prize for a bicycle ride taking place at the closing ceremony attended by refugee and Greek children. With the support of UNHCR and METAdrasi, more than 90 refugee children participated in an educational/artistic program developed in the framework of the exhibitions ["A world not ours" by the Schwarz Foundation](#). In their visit the children had the opportunity to draw, play and even write a letter to their favorite artist.

- To **celebrate Eid-Al-Adha** on 12 September, on **Lesvos**, the organizations "Movement on the Ground" and "Because We Carry" organized a feast for refugees in Kara Tepe in collaboration with UNHCR and other partners. On **Kos**, UNHCR organized a toy distribution for the children residing both at the RIC and in alternative accommodations. On **Leros**, numerous excursions have been organized by UNHCR and Save the Children for UASC on a regular base during September. The excursions schedule is a fine combination between places of great cultural and historical interest, and places where the children can socialize with their own peers. Total population of UASC (app. 19 children) has been participating with enthusiasm in the activities. During September, UNHCR together with RIS held meetings with refugee representatives to discuss the current issues in a coordinated attempt to find viable solutions.

## Logistics

- Transport on the islands.** UNHCR continued to provide transport services from the sites to hospitals/town in order to meet essential needs (non-emergency medical cases, referral to alternative accommodations, interviews with concerned authorities), on **Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos**.
- Transfers from islands to mainland.** Following consultations among authorities and UNHCR, the first transfer of 33 persons whom had been declared admissible to seek asylum in Greece took place from Chios Island on 21 September and a second transfer of 49 asylum seekers from Lesvos took place on 30 September. UNHCR provided ferry tickets from the islands to Piraeus and bus transfer from the port to the sites of Alexandria, Trikala, Andravidas and Eleonas on the mainland. Welcome Committees have been established at destination site and appropriate services provided upon arrival would be enhanced, in order to contribute to smooth completion of the transfer procedure. Transfers will continue from Chios, Lesvos and potentially from other islands if space is identified on the mainland.

## GAPS, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

The sites in the islands continue to be overcrowded and reception capacity is overstretched due to lack of an effective transfer mechanism from the islands to the mainland for admissible cases and cases referred for regular procedures. Current absorption capacities have been exceeded by over 4,000 PoCs and arrivals continue to occur. According to governmental figures, on 30 of September 60,736 PoCs are present in Greece, of which 14,173 in the islands. Capacity for islands: 7,450.

- Tensions among asylum-seekers on the islands are on the rise, due to overcrowding and length of the asylum registration and processing, particularly for some nationalities such as Afghans and Iraqis, among others. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support to the Government to assist the transfer of individuals, including those with specific needs, from the islands to the mainland in order to decongest the islands.
- As messages were sent out for appointments during the month of September, field teams at some sites were confronted with negative reactions from refugees who were worried by the fact that they had not received an SMS informing them of their appointments. Their concerns have been addressed in the Q&A developed and by providing an information session on the process with Communication with Communities partners who will use their own mechanisms to inform PoC.
- In Kipselochori and Thermopiles, Central Greece, the creation of comprehensive referral pathways is of concern, considering the low number of operational partners. The quality of the food is still a topic of continuing dissatisfaction for the PoCs, especially in Kipselochori. Despite assurances from the army to intervene with the supply company, no improvements were noted. All viable alternatives proposed by PoCs and UNHCR (creation of community kitchen, additional provision of food by DRC) were initially rejected by the Army.

- The slow pace of registration and processing of asylum claims, particularly of some nationalities on the islands, and safety risks incurred by refugees and migrants in Greece contribute to the deteriorating situation within some sites and is of serious concern. UNHCR has repeatedly been calling upon the security and law enforcement authorities to increase security to protect refugees, migrants, aid workers and civil servants working in these sites. In addition, poor living conditions, combined with a prevailing feeling of uncertainty, regularly fuel despair and frustration among asylum-seekers in Greece. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support and assistance to the Government including in areas such as information provision, asylum counseling, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, improving shelter and water/sanitation conditions, provision of non-food items, expanding accommodation places and site management support.

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR provides protection and assistance activities directly and through **19 implementing partners** (international and national NGOs) including: Samaritan’s Purse (SP), Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA), International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Ecumenical Refugee Program (ERP), Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR), METAdrasi, Praksis, Tenet (Hellenic Theater/Drama & Education Network), Solidarity Now, Arsis, Iliaktida, Nostos, Médecins du Monde (Mdm) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
- UNHCR has also **ongoing partnerships with the national and local authorities**, including the Greek Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, the Municipality of Athens and the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

UNHCR Greece Partners 2016

Sector of Intervention	National NGOs	International NGOs	United Nations	Authorities
Protection	GRC, Praksis, METAdrasi, ERP, Arsis, Solidarity Now	ICMC, Mercy Corps, DRC	UNOPS	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction
Child Protection	METAdrasi, Praksis	Save the Children, DRC		
Communicating with Communities	GCR/GFR			
NFI/Shelter		Samaritan’s Purse, DRC		
WASH		Samaritan’s Purse, DRC, IRC		
Site Management Support		DRC		
Health		WAHA		
Education		Save the Children, DRC		
Public awareness	Tenet		UNOPS	
Relocation (accommodation)	Praksis, Nostos, Arsis, Solidarity Now, Iliaktida, Mdm			Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In the framework of the revised inter-agency [regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan \(RMRP\) for Europe](#), released on 10 June, the Plan amounts to USD 669.9 million with UNHCR appealing for USD 380.3 million in additional support for European affected countries in the eastern Mediterranean and western Balkans countries for 2016. This appeal supersedes the original 2016 requirements for participating organizations. By participating in this plan organizations commit to engaging in regional and national coordination mechanisms across Europe. Under this regional plan, UNHCR is appealing for 300 million USD for Greece, and as of 31 August the total recorded contributions for Greece amount to 166.7 million USD.

Special thanks to major donors to the refugee emergency in Europe – the European Union, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom – as well as to all government donors and private donors for their generous contributions. The financial support provided by donors who have contributed with non-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation and the Greece operation allows to provide direct assistance in protection and help find solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers. In this changing operational context, UNHCR is appealing to donors to provide contributions that can be allocated as flexibly as possible.

UNHCR Greece Donors	Amount Recorded in USD
Austria	2,265,006
Foundation BNP Paribas	1,481,481
European Commission (DG ECHO)	31,536,848
European Commission (DG Home)	121,162,583
Germany	3,382,187
International Olympic Committee	50,000
Norway	1,770,120
Stavros Niarchos Foundation	222,965
Switzerland	377,551
The Church of Latter-day Saints	250,000
United Kingdom	4,026,568
Vodafone Foundation	145,560
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166,670,870</b>

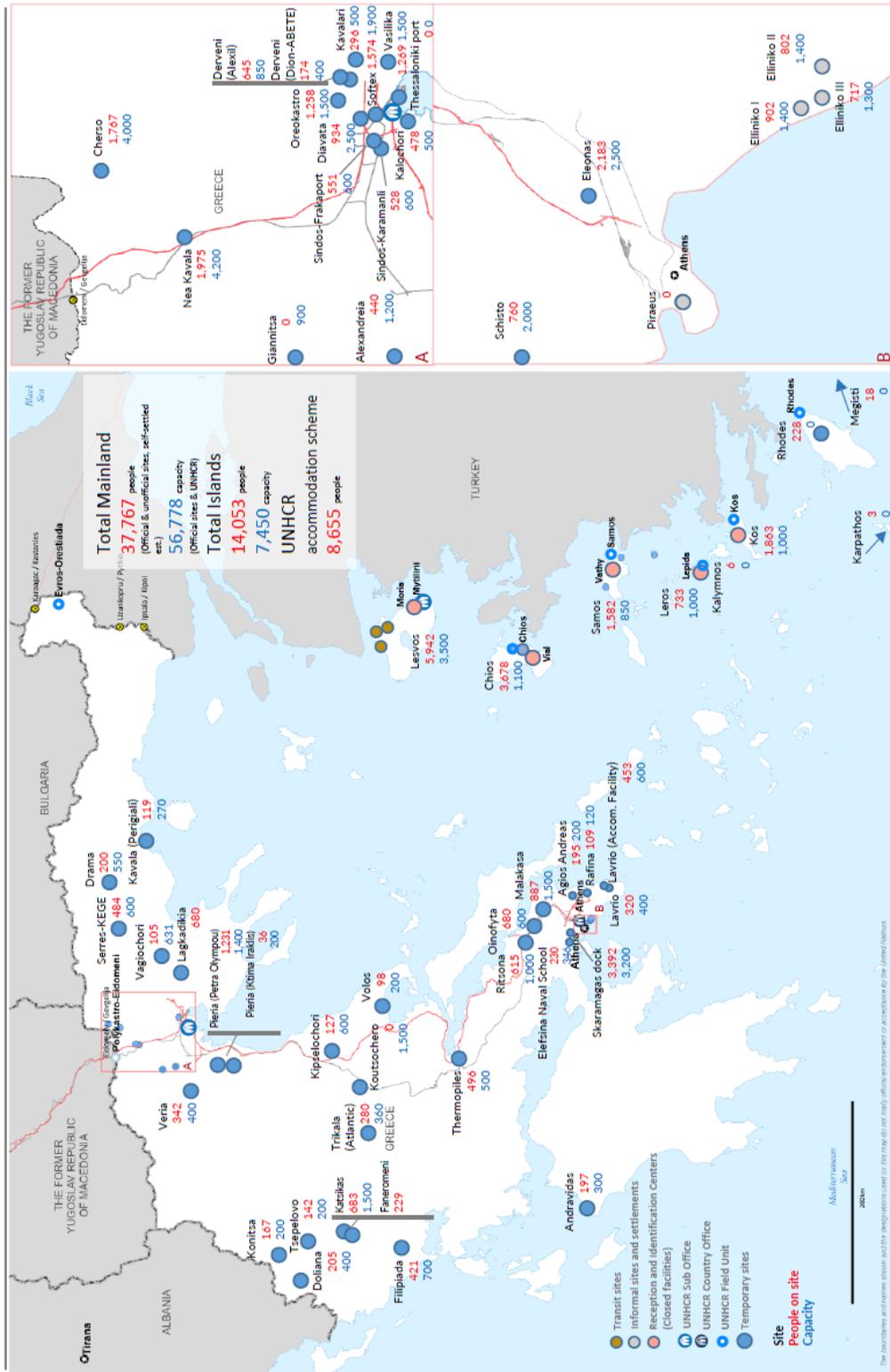
Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: [United States of America \(181 M\)](#) | [Sweden \(78 M\)](#) | [Netherlands \(46 M\)](#) | [Norway \(40 M\)](#) | [Australia \(31 M\)](#) | [Private Donors Spain \(25 M\)](#) | [Denmark \(24 M\)](#) | [Canada \(16 M\)](#) | [Switzerland \(15 M\)](#) | [France \(14 M\)](#) | [Germany \(13 M\)](#) | [Italy \(10 M\)](#).





# Europe Refugee Emergency

Daily map indicating capacity and occupancy (Governmental figures)  
As of 30 September 2016 08:00 a.m. EET



Presence and capacity are based on Governmental figures from the Coordination Centre for the Management of the Refugee Crisis, as of 30/09/2016 08:00 a.m. Eastern European Time. Online map with additional information: <http://www.unhcr.org/sites>

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**Links:** [Arrival figures website](#) - [Refugee stories](#) - [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

