

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
342,774

arrivals by sea in 2016*

4,518

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 07 and 13 November, 375 refugees and migrants crossed the Eastern Mediterranean Sea to Greece – a decrease from the 570 sea arrivals the week prior. So far in November, 792 people have arrived by sea to Greece. As of 13 November, 170,586 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea to Greece in 2016. The main nationalities include 47% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq, where children account for 37% of arrivals since 01 January 2016 while men make up 42% and women 21%.

In addition, 3,023 refugees and migrants arrived by sea through the Central Mediterranean to Italy during the week of 07 November – an increase from the 2,362 who arrived the previous week. During the week, majority of arrivals reached Italy between 07 and 08 November after having been rescued in different Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. Between 01 January and 13 November 2016, 164,694 persons arrived by sea, compared to the 144,205 persons who disembarked at the end of November 2015. While sea arrival trends remain on par with 2014, figures in 2016 have seen a recent increase by 7% compared to sea arrivals in 2015. Among the top nationalities represented, 21% are from Nigeria, 12% are from Eritrea and 7% from Guinea.

Key Developments

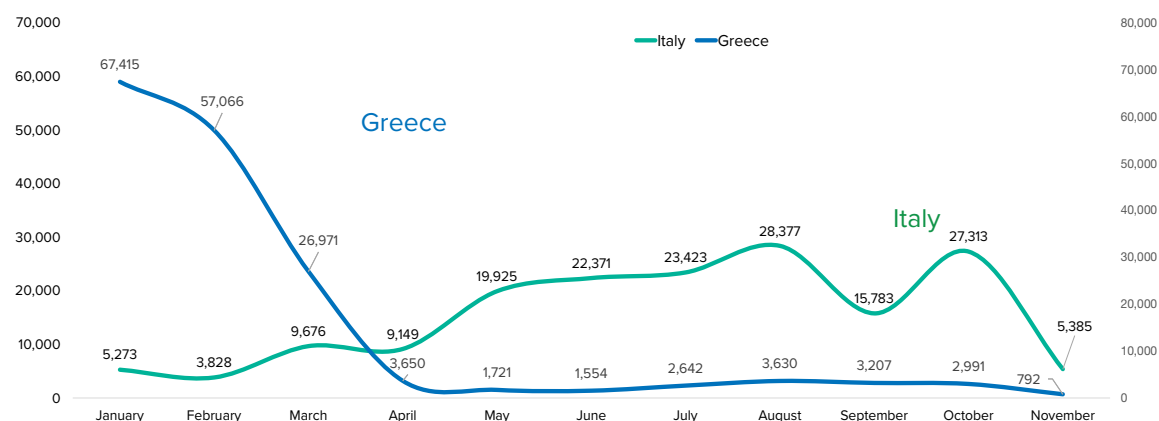
Situation in Greece

Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the Aegean islands continue to face serious challenges with capacity and shelter allocation for those already present on the islands in addition to new arrivals. On the evening of 09 November, heavy rainfall on the island of Samos affected some 1,000 people accommodated at Vathy RIC. With a maximum official capacity of 850, Vathy RIC

is hazardously overstrained with 2,000 presently hosted there. Almost half of the residents are living in small camping tents outdoors, with limited access to adequate facilities such as toilets and showers, leaving them exposed to protection and safety risks. Those staying in tents experienced the most loss, when their tents were flooded during the rains leaving them without shelter and with their personal belongings damaged or lost. In this highly critical situation, UNHCR issued a [press release](#) on Sunday 13 November, appealing to all responsible authorities to act swiftly to ensure adequate accommodation for refugees and migrants on the island and calling all actors to address the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants on Samos. Other RICs in various sites throughout the islands and mainland face similar critical situations. UNHCR stands ready to support authorities in order to ensure effective action is carried out in response to improve living conditions and security, particularly for those with specific needs such as people with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant women.

On the mainland, rising tensions and scuffles among different communities of asylum-seekers continue due to frustration as regards to the lengthiness of asylum registration and processing, the slow pace of relocation and inadequate living conditions among other matters. However, in the sites where UNHCR started the comprehensive winterization process, tensions have decreased thanks to the timely delivery of prefab housing units, the detailed information disseminated to communication with communities partners and focal points on asylum related questions about registration, relocation and family reunification, the collaboration with the Asylum Service (AS) to search for applicants who have missed appointments for full registration on the islands. Protection and safety risks related to the lack of security in some

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 13 November 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 16 November 2016

Key Figures

Greece

375

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

07 November - 13 November

54

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

07 November - 13 November

Italy

3,023

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

07 November - 13 November

432

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

07 November - 13 November

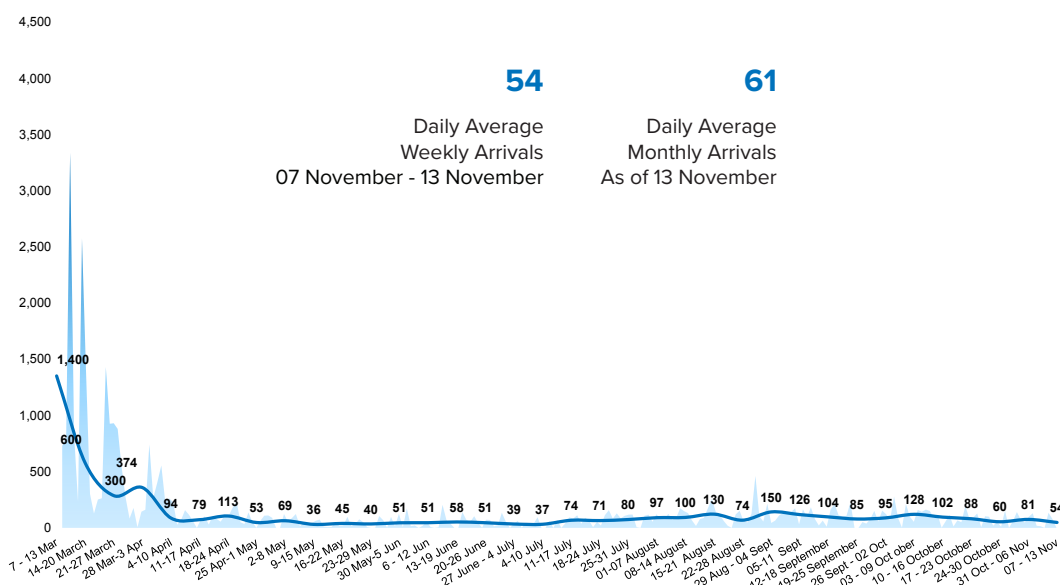
of the sites remain of concern, as this continues to impact those living in the sites as well as humanitarian aid workers.

During the week, incidents were reported in Northern Greece where tensions continue to escalate. In Diavata site asylum-seekers continued protests which began on 04 November, requesting for improved living conditions, service distribution including cash and food and the need for winterized shelters. Following discussions with community leaders, all agencies were granted access again to Diavata on 11 November. UNHCR continues

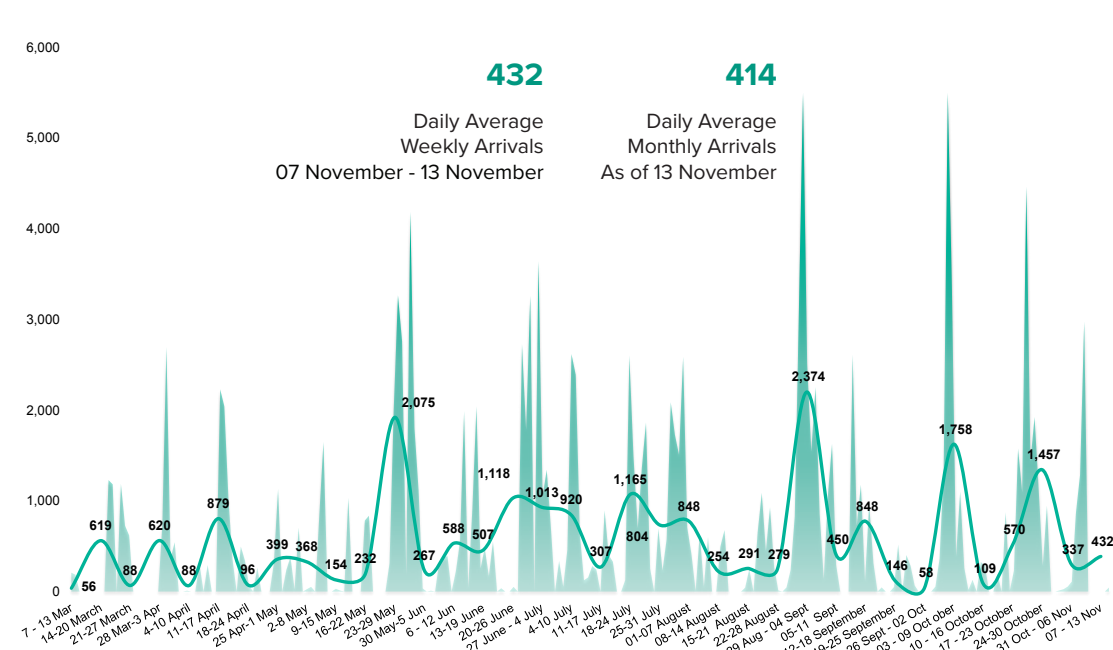
to advocate and offer support and assistance to the Government including in areas such as information provision, asylum counselling, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, improving and winterizing accommodation facilities, provision of non-food items and site management support.

The Ministry of Migration and Planning (MoMP) and the Ministry of Labour (MoL) have endorsed the 'Minimum Standards for safe spaces for unaccompanied children (UAC) in open sites' that was drafted by the Child Protection sub-Working Group, in which UNHCR is part of.

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 13 November 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 13 November 2016



The Minimum Standards include criteria for site selection, infrastructure, procedure and placement of UAC, services and staff. UAC at heightened risk, including UAC in detention, should be prioritized for placement in shelters and safe zones depending on their vulnerability and needs. In order to achieve this, the MoMP and MoL agreed that rapid best interest assessments (BIA) should be used as a prerequisite for referring UAC for accommodation and support in the safe zones. Regarding selection of safe zones within the sites, representatives from the Ministries and members of the Child Protection sub-Working Group will conduct site assessments in the coming weeks at the 15 mainland sites that are part of the winterization plan, to determine whether sites fit the minimum standards. UNHCR continues to offer support to the authorities in providing child protection counselling, information provision regarding unaccompanied and separated children's (UASC) access to registration, legal aid, social services and accommodation. UNHCR, through its partners, continued to expand the accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme candidates and asylum-seekers with specific needs. The accommodation capacity in support of the Greek Government through the relocation scheme funded by the European Union established a total of 436 new places during the reporting, reaching 17,658 places (88% of the aimed 20,000) by the end of the reporting period. The project has benefitted a total of 17,343 persons of concern so far.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

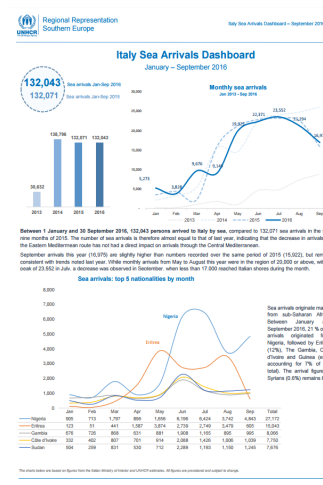
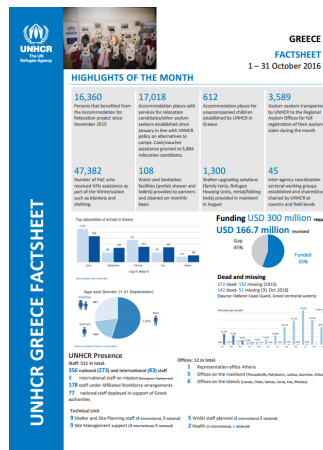
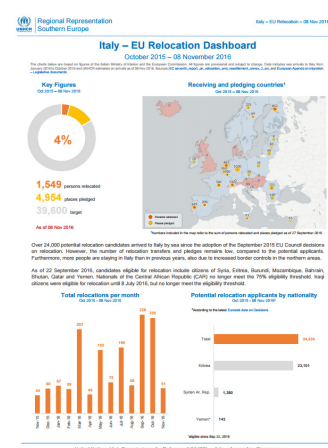
An estimated 6,400 refugees and migrants remain in Serbia according to information provided by authorities and UNHCR partners. Of those, around 79% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,911 throughout the five Asylum Centres and 3,169 in 'Tran-

sit' or Reception Centres (RCs). The rest were staying at the two sites near the Hungarian border or sleeping rough in Belgrade city centre. With winter approaching, temperatures at night in some locations were close to zero degrees (Celsius) for the first time this year - leading to an increase in medical needs amongst refugees and migrants staying outside or in facilities without adequate heating. The authorities, UNHCR and partners provided support such as distribution of winter clothes and blankets, as well as continued to provide protection assistance and legal counselling on asylum in Serbia in all sites throughout the country.

On 11 November, some 130 refugees and migrants, mainly men from Afghanistan and Pakistan, set out on a protest march from Belgrade to the Croatian border. While a few decided to return to Belgrade due to cold weather conditions and exhaustion, the others continued and reached Sid by train on 13 November. On the morning of 14 November, between 30 to 40 protesters remained near the border crossing at Sid and Tovarnik, refusing to relocate to government facilities stating that they will wait until they are allowed to proceed. The situation remained peaceful and the protest came to an end on the afternoon of 14 November.

As of 13 November, an estimated 151 asylum-seekers were camping in the open at the two border sites near the Hungarian transit zones. Among the asylum-seekers awaiting entry into Hungary at the two border sites, on average 36% were children, 45% men and 19% women. The majority were from Syria (39%), Iraq (33%) and Afghanistan (16%). The daily admission rate into Hungary remains limited to 10 people per day per transit zone following the implementation of the new operating hours and no admission on weekends of the Hungarian au-

Key Documents from the Portal



thorities at the zones. During the reporting period, 99 asylum-seekers have been admitted (50 into Röszke and 49 into Tompa) in comparison to previous weeks when the average weekly admission rate ranged between 200 and 210. Weather conditions are deteriorating adding to the hardship of the people staying outside the transit zones. The waiting period for families ranged between 60-120 days and for single men the average is around 120 days. Families and single men transported by IOM or taking public transport to the transit zones from various reception facilities in Serbia spent up to 13 days in the waiting areas prior to being admitted into the transit zones. UNHCR in Hungary continues to provide asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, Dublin procedures and the implications of the safe third country notion.

Update on Relocations

From Italy, 21 persons were relocated to Switzerland on 09 November. The overall number of people transferred from Italy rose to 1,570 - only 4% of the 39,600 target. Despite the increasing number of UASC arriving to Italy, their relocation to other Member States has yet to occur. Increased Member State pledges dedicated to the relocation of UASC in Italy are needed, as there is a specific procedure to make the relocation of UASC possible. As of 09 November Italy has received 4,954 relocation pledges from EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland ([latest EC data, 14 November](#)).

A total of 311 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week to Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Thus far, a total of 5,654 (8.5%) asylum-seekers against the targeted 66,400, have been relocated from Greece since the beginning of the relocation programme in November 2015. According to the European Commission's latest report on relocation and resettlement published on 09 November, the overall number of pledges to Greece still remains low at 11,305 (18% of the targeted 66,400). For Greece, a total of 690 new pledges were announced from Germany (500), Norway (150), and Latvia (40) between 07 and 14 November. Until September 2017, 66,400 persons are expected to be relocated from Greece to other EU Member States. In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted 573

relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and 567 received transportation services during the reporting period.

EU Related Developments

On 09 November, the European Commission (EC) released their [Seventh Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#). The EC noted a slower relocation pace in October, but expected to see a rise in the number of persons relocated in November. They reported on recent positive developments, including Greece's increased registration capacity and Europol's facilitating role. To increase the pace of relocation, the EC calls on both Greece and Italy to continue increasing their processing capacity; on the former to establish additional sites for the accommodation of relocation candidates; and on the latter to implement the arrangements agreed with Europol and to start relocating UASC. Other Member States are notably encouraged to pledge and relocate regularly; accelerate response time to relocation requests; increase their reception capacities to accommodate relocation applicants; and deploy pledge experts under EASO deployment. Additionally, the EC encourages Member States to enhance resettlement, including as part of the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.

On 09 November, the EC also adopted its annual enlargement package. The package includes reports on where candidates and potential candidates for EU accession (respectively [Albania](#), [FYROM](#), [Montenegro](#), [Serbia](#) and [Turkey](#), as well as [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), and [Kosovo](#) (SCR 1244) stand regarding the implementation of the key political and economic reforms needed as prerequisites for enlargement. Those include reforms on asylum and migration. The report on Turkey includes a state of play of EU-Turkey relations, including as part of the EU-Turkey Statement. The package also comprises a [strategy paper](#) assessing the implementation of the [2015 Enlargement Strategy](#), which includes a specific focus on efforts relating to migration, as well as conclusions for the further advancement of enlargement negotiations.

On 11 November, the [Council](#) adopted the EC's proposal to [extend](#) proportionate controls at certain internal Schengen borders in Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, where controls are already taking place, for a further three-month period.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

