

Weekly Report

Trends of Sea Arrivals



Key Figures

Mediterranean
3,161

arrivals by sea in 2017*

230

dead/missing in 2017*

During the week of 09 to 15 January, 305 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece from Turkey – a slight decrease from the 382 who crossed the previous week. The number of sea arrivals fluctuated between 0 arrivals (10/01 and 14/01) and 146 (15/01). Lesbos recorded the majority of sea arrivals (145), followed by Chios (77). In comparison to the previous week the average number of daily arrivals increased from 37 to 44. However, the average number of daily arrivals in January 2017 so far is still significantly lower when compared to the January 2016 daily average of 1,932.

In the same week, 1,625 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Italy – more than double from the 728 who arrived the previous week – with no arrivals taking place between Monday and Friday. Between 13 and 15 January, over 1,500 persons were rescued in the Central Mediterranean and subsequently disembarked in southern Italy. During the rescues, five corpses were disembarked in Lampedusa and Messina, three of which suffered hypothermia and the other two died due to overcrowding on board the dinghy. Furthermore four survivors rescued on 14 January, reported that a dinghy carrying some 180 persons collapsed some 30-40 miles from the Libyan coast: four corpses were retrieved, while 172 persons are missing. In January 2017 so far, 2,353 persons arrived by sea, compared to 5,273 arriving in January 2016. In 2016, 181,436 persons arrived by sea, compared to 153,842 arrivals by the end of December

2015, displaying an 18% increase from 2015 to 2016.

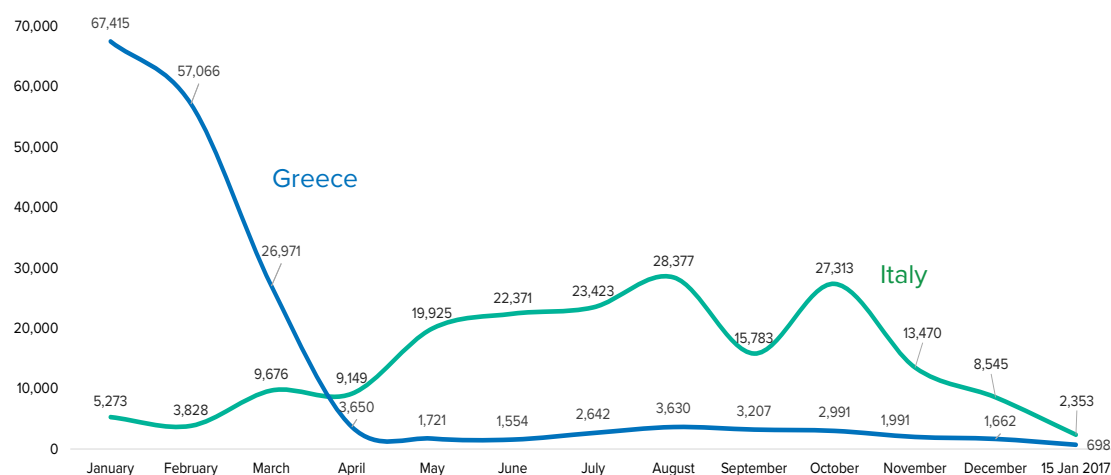
As of 15 January, there have been reports of 230 dead/missing persons at sea in 2017. Majority of these incidents (87%) have occurred along the central Mediterranean Sea route.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

The arctic wave hitting Europe bringing freezing temperatures and heavy snow continued to affect Greece last week, creating a critical situation for refugees and migrants in the country, particularly for those in overcrowded sites on the Aegean islands. In response to harsh winter conditions, UNHCR and partners continued to provide logistical and protection support with various interventions. Due to freezing temperatures water and electricity shortages affected many sites throughout the mainland, particularly in northern Greece. In Nea Kavala UNHCR delivered an additional 10 chemical toilets to alleviate the urgent needs due to the absence of running water, while the Hellenic Army provided extra water bottles to each family. In Vasilika/Redestos, UNHCR's contractor ASB, installed nine floors and Firdaus volunteers set up nine new winterized UNHCR family tents to replace the old ones until an adequate solution for suitable accommodation is available. At the same site, water pipes of WASH facilities and chemical toilets froze

Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January 2016 to 15 January 2017



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 15 January 2017

Key Figures

Greece

305
 Total Weekly
 Arrivals to
 Greek Islands

9 - 15 January 2017

44
 Daily Average
 Arrivals to
 Greek Islands

9 - 15 January 2017

Italy

1,625
 Total Weekly
 Arrivals to Italy

9 - 15 January 2017

232
 Daily Average
 Arrivals to Italy

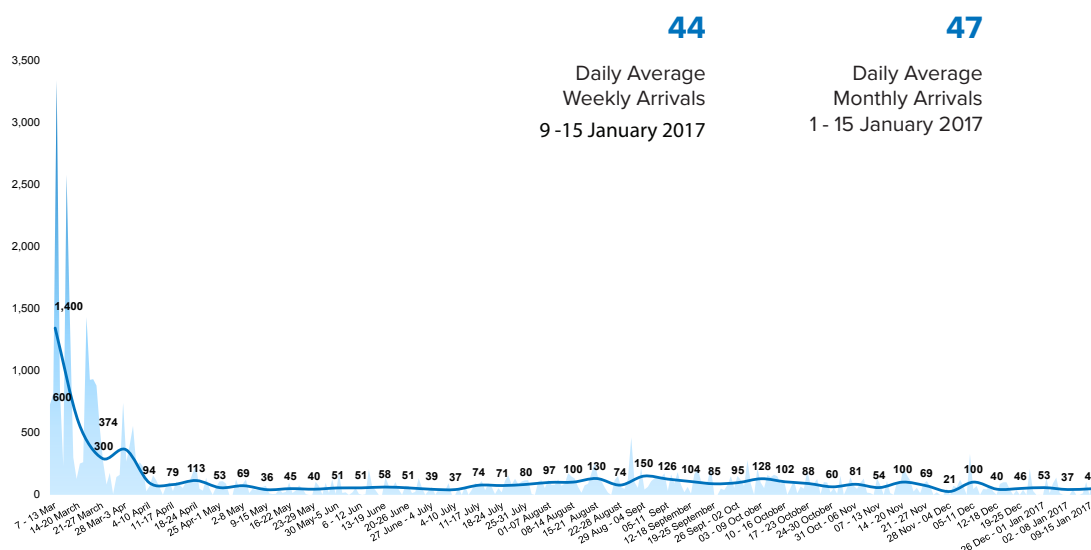
9 - 15 January 2017

over causing the interruption of running water for six days. As a temporary solution, UNHCR provided six additional chemical toilets and the army provided two big water tanks that were filled daily by a truck. In addition to infrastructure support, UNHCR is coordinating evacuation efforts from four warehouses/unsuitable sites and providing transportation in cooperation with the Ministry of Migration Policy for the transfer of refugees and migrants to hotels, apartments, as well as to other winterized sites.

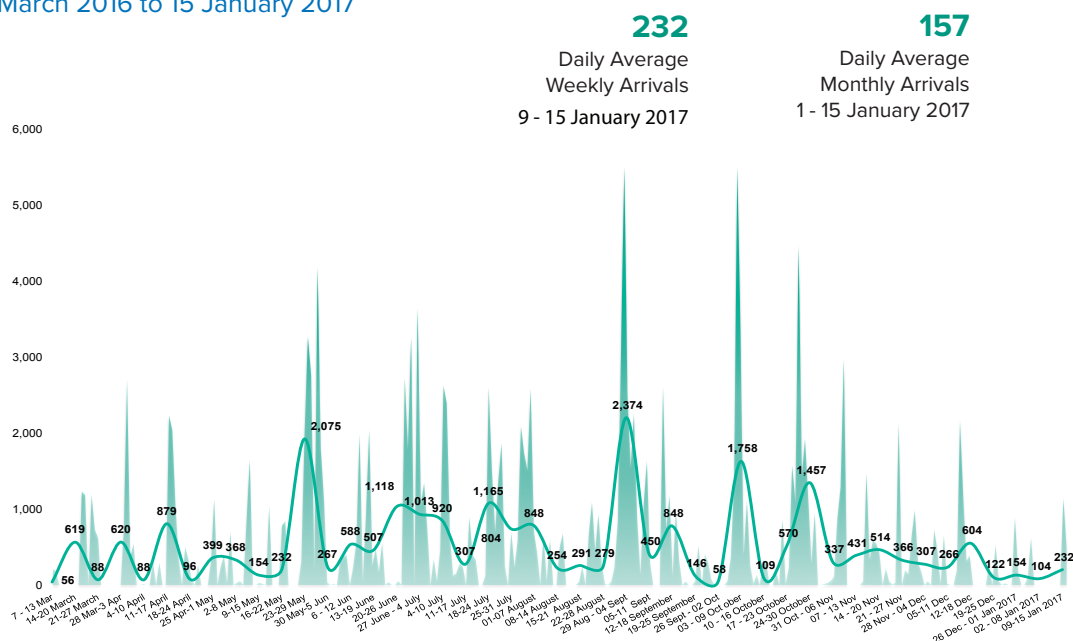
Governor Dimitris Pavlidis declared a State of Emergen-

cy for the Evros region, at the border with Turkey, following extreme weather conditions. UNHCR visited the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) of Fylakio in Evros to monitor the conditions and provide information to people specifically to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other vulnerable groups. At the time of reporting, 172 third country nationals were hosted at the RIC, including 44 UASC (a record high of UASC at Fylakio). Despite the challenges faced with the State of Emergency, food supply continued smoothly and the heating system was functioning normally. The water supply however was affected in some rooms due to

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 March 2016 to 15 January 2017



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 7 March 2016 to 15 January 2017



efforts, where the populations of the Samos RIC has decreased to around 1,400 from 1,600 in December 2016 (capacity: 603). However, overcrowding and unsuitable living conditions continue to be a critical issue, especially on Samos, despite UNHCR's continued support to carry out transfers to the mainland. UNHCR stands ready to provide logistical support and urges authorities to make the necessary measures for improvements.

UNHCR-supported cash assistance continues or is being rolled-out by implementing partners for 15 mainland sites across Greece, except for Andravida, Serres, Drama, Kavala, where it is expected to start at the end of January. Roll out of cash assistance by implementing partners is also being planned for the islands of Samos and Chios. UNHCR prepaid cards for asylum-seekers in UNHCR-funded accommodation should begin on 23 January in Athens and rapidly expand to other locations around the country.

A return operation was carried out from Greece to Turkey within the scope of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 during the reporting period. According to Greek authorities, 27 Syrians were returned from Lesbos to Adana on 12 January: 14 withdrew their asylum claim and 13 revoked their intention to apply for asylum. They were returned via Lesbos to Adana by plane by the European Border Guard and Coastguard Agency – Frontex. Also during the week, 10 non-Syrians (Iraqis, Egyptians, Algerians, Iranians and Pakistanis) were readmitted to Turkey from Lesbos to Dikili.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece

3

under the EU-Turkey Statement since March 2016 is 838 as of 17 January 2017.

Situation in Serbia

With more refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants seeking shelter and registration amidst harsh winter-weather the overall number of those in Serbia grew close to 7,300. Among which, 82% are accommodated in 16 heated governmental shelters with many exceeding their capacities. Of those sheltered in centres, 49% are from Afghanistan, 19% from Iraq, 10% each from Syria and Pakistan, 5% from Iran and 7% from other countries. Of the population in Serbia, 46% are children, 39% adult male and 15% adult female.

The rest stayed rough in Belgrade city centre or near the border with Hungary. A number of men sleeping rough in the Belgrade city centre still opt not to move to government shelters despite the harsh weather. UNHCR and civil society, in close coordination with the authorities, continue to provide life-saving aid, such as stoves, additional blankets and winter clothes, along with protection and monitoring assistance. On 14 January, authorities requested UNHCR and partners to support the refurbishment of a new large temporary emergency shelter near Belgrade for the voluntary relocation of homeless refugees and migrants from Belgrade. In connection to this UNHCR has intensified communication and information sharing with the refugee and migrant community to ensure they are aware of the different options available to them. At the same time, UNHCR and partners continued to provide support to registration and transportation for 98 newly registered persons from Belgrade to designated centres. The Centre for Social Work, supported by UNHCR and partners, started to identify the hundreds of unaccompanied and separated boys within the group in Belgrade city centre. Authorities have provided assurance that the new facility planned for those in need of relocation from the city centre will have adequate protection sensitive conditions and services for UASCs and other persons with specific needs. The first voluntary relocation of the UASCs was scheduled to take place on 16 January.

The number of lodged intentions to seek asylum in Serbia in January so far is 364. In total, the number of substantive first instance decisions in 2016 was 82, including 23 persons granted subsidiary protection, 19 refugee status and 40 rejected, compared to 33 decisions (16 refugee status, 14 subsidiary protection and 3 rejections) in 2015.

Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

With the continued arctic wave hitting the region, fewer asylum-seekers camped outdoors in makeshift tents at the border sites, with 31 in total (15 at Horgos and 16 at Kelbije) awaiting admission to Hungary. The waiting period for families to access the transit zones ranges from

four to six months while single men can wait up to seven months. In addition to waiting in various reception facilities in Serbia, families spent up to five days on the Serbian side of the border prior to being admitted into the transit zones.

During the reporting period, 101 asylum-seekers entered Hungary through the two transit zones where the daily admission rate remains 10 people per day per transit zone with no admissions over the weekends. In addition, the Hungarian Police reported 26 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 229 people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 389 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence. In addition, UNHCR and partners in Serbia received reports of some 130 foreign nationals collectively expelled back into Serbia after having entered Hungary irregularly.

UNHCR, in coordination with its partner the Hungarian Helsinki committee, issued a new information leaflet in seven languages aimed at providing asylum-seekers entering Hungary via the transit zones with information about the border procedures, the asylum process, their rights and obligations and available services.

Update on Relocation

On 11 January, 81 Eritrean nationals were relocated to Spain, bringing the total relocated from Italy to 2,735 (7% of the initial target of 39,600 persons foreseen). No UASC have been relocated from Italy yet. ([latest EC data, 17 January](#)).

A total of 219 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week, to Estonia (12), Latvia (15), Lithuania (44), Luxembourg (29), Norway (58) and Portugal (61). As of 15 January, 7,526 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece since the beginning of the program, representing just 11.8% of the initial target of 66,400 persons foreseen. There were 485 new pledges from France (400), Slovenia (35), Latvia (30) and Lithuania (20) during the reporting period. In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted 309 relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and 270 received transportation services during the reporting period.

EU Related Developments

On 11 January, the College of EU Commissioners [visited](#) Valletta, Malta, for their traditional visit to the incoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Discussions focused on challenges and priorities for the EU during the Maltese Presidency (January-June 2017). At the [press conference](#) that followed the meeting Malta's Prime Minister mainly focused on border control when mentioning migration.

On 12 January, the Steering Committee of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey [met](#) in Brussels for the fifth time. The Committee gathers representatives from the European Commission, EU Member States and Turkey. The European Commission reported on the progress achieved on the disbursement of support to refugees: of the overall EUR 3 billion, contracts have been signed for 37 projects worth EUR 1.45 billion. The roll-out of the Emergency

Social Safety Net (ESSN) is underway, with ongoing distribution of debit cards to refugees with specific needs. The European Commission also gave a presentation on progress made in developing the Facility Results Framework and a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system that should become operational in the course of this year.

Timeline Overview

Highlights

