

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
28,378

arrivals by sea in 2017*

813

dead/missing in 2017*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

From 01 January 2017, 20,580 persons arrived by sea, including 3,369 to Greece (as of 21 March), 19,549 to Italy (as of 21 March) and 1,000 to Spain (as of 31 January). As of 19 March, 537 people have died or gone missing while trying to reach Europe by sea, compared with 5,022 in the whole of 2016.

From 13 to 19 March 558 persons arrived by sea to Greece. The number of daily sea arrivals fluctuated between 0 (15 March) and 193 (17 March). Chios recorded the majority of sea arrivals (334), followed by Lesbos (156) and Samos (55). Compared with the previous week the average number of daily arrivals increased from 27 to 80. The increase of arrivals has coincided with improved weather conditions, which had been particularly bad during the previous weeks. From 06 to 12 March there were 186 estimated arrivals by sea to Greece. Chios recorded the majority of estimated sea arrivals (80), followed by Lesbos and Samos (67).

From 13 to 19 March, 388 persons (including 30 Unaccompanied and Separated Children-UASC) were estimated to have arrived to southern Italy by sea. New arrivals departed from Libya and mainly originate from sub-Saharan African countries. Most were (325) disembarked in Augusta on 16 March after having been rescued in a search and rescue (SAR) operations. Furthermore, a number of autonomous sea arrivals occurred during the week, including small groups of Tunisian and Algerian nationals who reached Sicily and Sardinia, respectively, while 21 Iranian, Somali and Sri Lankan nationals reached Sicily having departed from Turkey. Finally, 27 Iraqi and Afghan nationals were intercepted on board of a vessel departed from Mersin, Turkey, and subsequently disembarked at the Trieste port in northern Italy. From 06 to 12 March, 84 persons (including four UASC) disembarked in Augusta.

From 06 to 12 March, 218 persons (nine boats) arrived to Spain by sea mainly originating from sub-Saharan African countries (Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea). Most new arrivals were rescued in the Mediterranean Sea or in the Strait of Gibraltar and later transferred to the Andalusian coast (Almería and Motril, on the Alboran sea) or near the Strait of Gibraltar (Tarifa, Algeciras). Furthermore, a boat carrying 17 persons arrived in Ceuta, having departed from very close to the Morocco-Ceuta border: this was the first time in many months that a boat reached Ceuta in broad daylight. Between 13 and 17 March, bad weather conditions impacted on sea arrivals in the Western Mediterranean. However, on 19 March sea arrivals resumed with 42 persons (two boats) rescued by the Spanish Rescue Agency and transferred to Almería and Tarifa. Furthermore, 30 persons travelling on board of a further boat were intercepted by Moroccan authorities and transferred back to Morocco.

The Spanish Minister of Interior reported that so far in 2017, 1,554 persons have arrived to the Andalusian coast using 62 small "patera" boats (a boat with a shallow draft, used by immigrants to cross the Straits of Gibraltar from Morocco to southern Spain). Sea arrivals on the Andalusian coast have increased by 150 per cent compared to the same period last year.

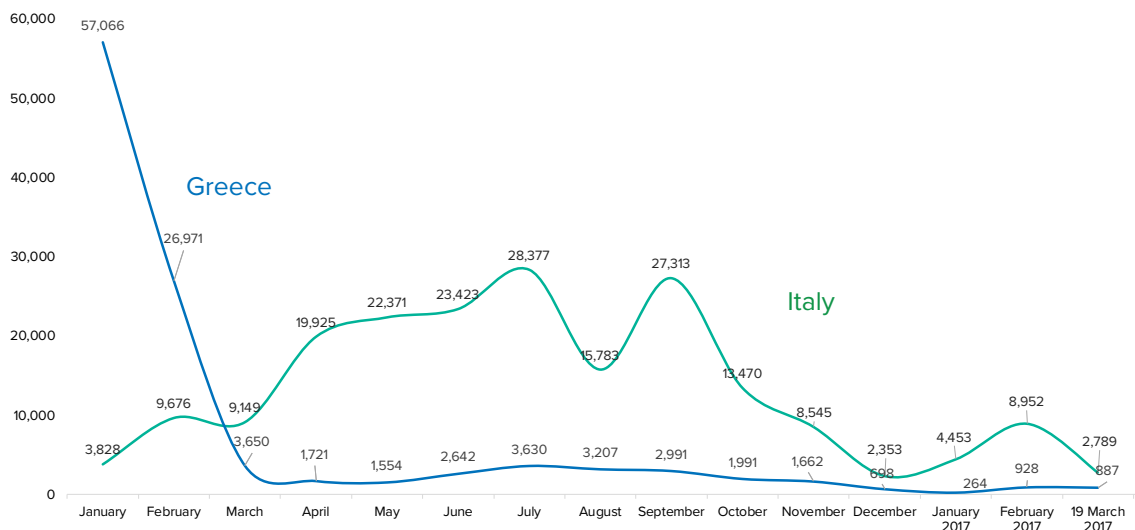
Key Developments

Situation in Greece

UNHCR, through its partner the Ecumenical Refugee Program (ERP), will support the Greek Asylum Service with the transfer of 1,000 asylum-seekers from Greece to other EU Members States by covering the cost of their air tickets. The support is made for outgoing transfers under

Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month

January 2016 to 19 March 2017



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 29 March 2017

Key Figures

the Dublin Regulation for family reunion and protection of UASC, transfers that should be expedited, as an exceptional measure as otherwise the decisions would have expired.

accommodation in apartments and buildings.

Greece

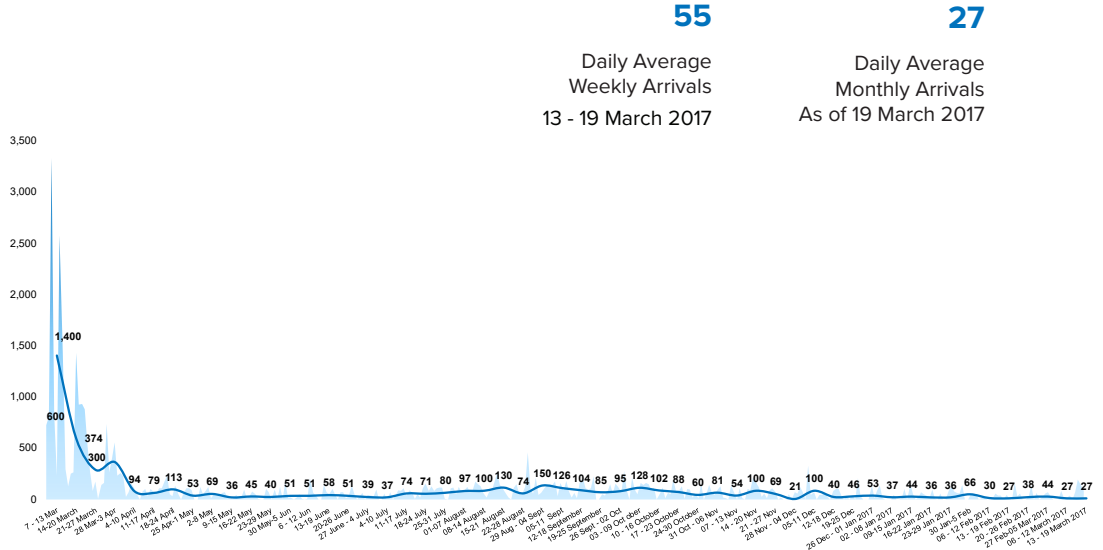
As of 12 March 2017, 1,252 people have been transferred out of Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) Moria to improved accommodation on Lesbos and the mainland. Since September 2016, 1,016 people have been transferred to the mainland. UNHCR continues to reduce accommodation in hotels and increase accommodation in apartments as part of the Accommodation Scheme. The number of hotels will further reduce in April 2017. At the same time, UNHCR is increasing its capacity in terms of

On the islands, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) remains a critical issue due to the lack of basic standards in the RICs. Inconsistent planning and management contributed to the insecurity in the sites. The situation is most grave in the RICs in Lesbos (RIC Moria) and Samos (RIC Vathy). On the mainland, a training on SGBV (core principles, key approaches and response) was organised by UNHCR in the three Elliniko sites. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on SGBV were discussed in the framework of the SGBV working group (at central level) where the partners were requested to provide their comments in order to finalize the document.

388
Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands
13 - 19 March 2017

55
Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands
13 - 19 March 2017

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece
7 March 2016 to 19 March 2017

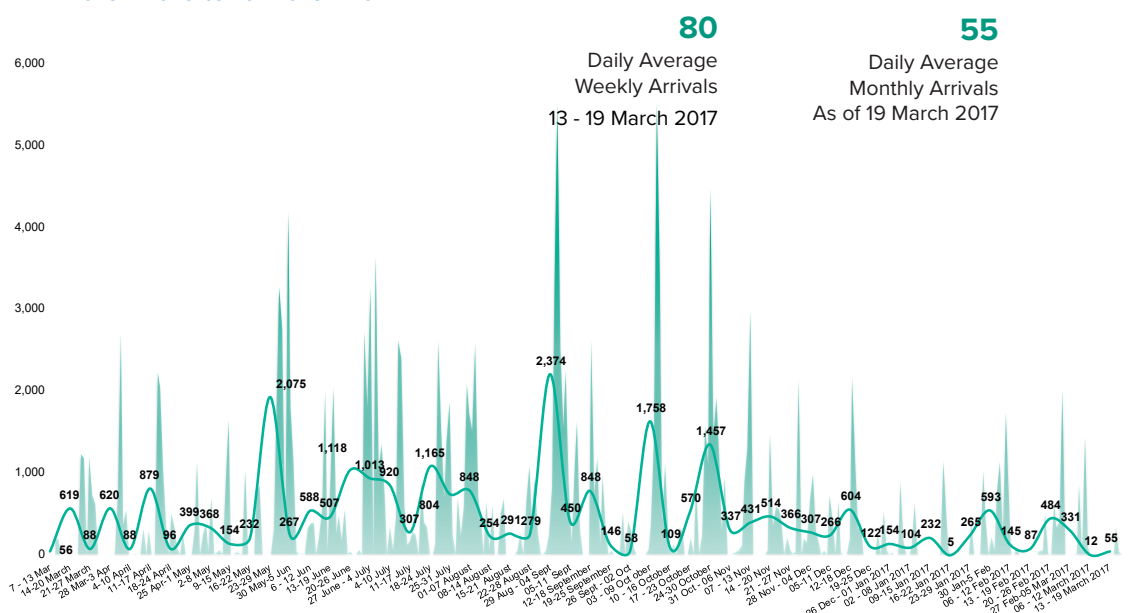


Italy

558
Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy
13 - 19 March 2017

80
Daily Average Arrivals to Italy
13 - 19 March 2017

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy
7 March 2016 to 19 March 2017



UNHCR continues to be concerned about the insufficient treatment of persons with mental or psychological conditions, particularly at the entry points on the islands. Persons that need urgent mental health support are not properly referred and treated. There remain large gaps in the areas of medical and psychosocial follow-up, accommodation or hospitalization, protective custody, and referrals to the mainland for further treatment. Serious cases continue to fall outside of the established referral networks as almost none of the relevant medical actors take responsibility to ensure that their protection needs (on the island and to the mainland) are addressed in a continuous and appropriate manner.

The construction of the Pre-removal Detention Centre in Vathy was announced by the Deputy Minister of Migration Policy, Yiannis Balafas, following the Joint EC-Greece Action Plan on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement according to which it was agreed that the Greek authorities with EU support will create sufficient detention capacity on the islands as soon as possible. In line with this, there is now a partially operational Pre-removal Detention Centre on Kos and the plan for the construction of the Pre-removal Detention Centre in Vathy.

Situation in Serbia

On 19 March, 7,861 (compared to 7,764 as of 12 March) asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants were counted in Serbia, of which 6,768 (86 per cent) were accommodated in 17 government shelters. Based on available data, 43 per cent were children, 16 per cent women and 41 per cent men; 54 per cent originate from Afghanistan, 18 per cent from Iraq, 8 per cent from Syria, 12 per cent from Pakistan and 8 per cent from other countries.

On 10 March, 112 unregistered refugees and migrants (83 men, one couple and 27 unaccompanied and separated boys) who were squatting in a few locations in/near

Subotica were transported by the authorities to the Pre-sevo Reception Centre (RC). Most are from Pakistan, a few from Syria and Afghanistan, and have already spent several months in Serbia unregistered. UNHCR and partners supported their admission to the RC, including health screening/treatment and provision of non food items (NFIs).

Only five asylum-seekers camped at Horgos and three at Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian "transit zones". Fewer number of reports of push-backs from Hungary were received this week (36 compared to 78 last week), with some alleging mistreatment by Hungarian authorities. At the same time, the number of reported push-backs from Croatia rose from 32 last week to 57.

Unfortunately, the accident reported on 02 February in Sid, when four men were critically injured after accidentally triggering an explosion on a train transporting fuel, had a tragic ending, as the life of one victim, despite immediate hospitalization and intensive care, could not be saved. The three other men applied for assisted voluntary return home to Algeria.

UNHCR and partners encountered and referred over 30 Afghan boys, who newly arrived from Bulgaria, to Centres for Social Work. Currently up to 900 UASC are in Serbia, with 718 accommodated in government centres, including 120 in Presevo, 33 in Bujanovac, 337 in Obrenovac and 228 in all other governmental centres.

UNHCR continued supporting the rapid refurbishment capacities in the Obrenovac centre near Belgrade, now accommodating 1,037 men and boys (compared to 1,023 on 12 March). A separate building in the centre was dedicated to accommodating only unaccompanied and separated boys.

Key Documents from the Web portal

DESPERATE JOURNEYS
Refugees and migrants crossing and crossing Europe via the Mediterranean and Western Balkans routes

SUMMARY
The number of refugees and migrants seeking to reach EU territory via the Western Balkans route has increased significantly in 2016, with over 100,000 arrivals in the region. This has led to a significant increase in the number of arrivals in EU territory, with over 100,000 arrivals in 2016 compared to 70,000 in 2015. The increase in arrivals is due to a combination of factors, including the continued conflict in Syria and Iraq, and the ongoing search for better living conditions in the Balkans. The increase in arrivals has also led to a significant increase in the number of arrivals in EU territory, with over 100,00 arrivals in 2016 compared to 70,000 in 2015. The increase in arrivals is due to a combination of factors, including the continued conflict in Syria and Iraq, and the ongoing search for better living conditions in the Balkans.

UNHCR SERBIA EUROPE REFUGEE SITUATION: SERBIA 2016 IN NUMBERS February 2017

PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS

Information, identification and referrals of Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- Over 96,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants provided with information
- Over 12,000 PSNs identified and referred to appropriate services
- Over 900 interviews conducted, including over 200 pushback interviews
- More than 80,000 identified from transition services

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

- Over 800 UASC referred to Child Protection services/accommodated with counselling
- 137 First Inland Asylum Applications supported through Child Welfare Services

Family Unity

- Over 100 separated families identified
- 30 families reunited in Serbia
- More than 70 families supported in obtaining birth certificates for new born babies

Asylum

- Over 20,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants received counselling on individualized counselling
- Over 1,000 asylum seekers assisted with registration and transported to government shelters
- Over 400 monitoring visits to Asylum Centres conducted
- Regular monitoring missions to 33 locations in border areas and detention facilities conducted
- 314 asylum seekers gave power of attorney for representation in asylum procedures
- 144 asylum seekers represented during asylum procedures
- 42 persons granted Refugee Subsidiary Protection, of which 38 supported by UNHCR partners
- 3 applications prepared and submitted to the European Court of Human Rights

SHELTER

- 550 additional accommodation places secured through rehabilitation of Presevo Reception Centre
- Medical unit in Krupica Asylum Centre consolidated/accommodated for 116 refugees in temporary barracks in the Krupica Asylum Centre
- Joint Reception Standards Assessment of Asylum Centres with the authorities conducted, aiming to ensure that reception facilities meet protection standards

Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe Humanitarian Situation Report # 21

15 MARCH 2017

Highlights

- The number of children at the Central Mediterranean Route is on the rise with more than 2,000 UNHCR arrivals in the first two months of 2017 compared to 1,300 during the same period in 2016. Meanwhile, European countries registered 7,876 new protection status claims by children (5,087 of them in Germany, while 2,388) children remain stranded in Greece and other Balkan countries.
- Due to the suspension of 2017 UNHCR identification and support of 2,000 children through network activities in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the meantime, 1,500 children attended regular structured education activities in Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A total of 530 babies and young children remained safe and being CMAI Family (PFI) services in Serbia and Greece.
- Most recent countries supported by UNHCR relate to the temporary expansion of support and regular activities and care for the Central Mediterranean Route, including the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy. UNHCR is also supporting the identification and support of 2,000 children through network activities in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the meantime, 1,500 children attended regular structured education activities in Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A total of 530 babies and young children remained safe and being CMAI Family (PFI) services in Serbia and Greece.

UNHCR RESULTS WITH PARTNERS (OBJECTS)

OBJECT	UNHCR and Partners	Target
Ref of 15k children (incl. UASC) identified through network activities	15,000	20,000
Ref of 15k children aged 17 following education participation (structured education activities)	15,000	20,000
Ref of 15k babies (incl. 2000 mother and baby care cases) services, including health services and nutrition services**	1,500	150

UNICEF Appeal 2017 USD 4,324,000

45,770
USD 4,324,000
UNICEF Appeal 2017 progress chart showing 45,770 USD raised out of a target of 45,770 USD.

Situation in Hungary

From 13 to 19 March, 43 asylum-seekers (compared to 48 from 06 to 12 March) entered Hungary through the two transit zones. In addition, the Hungarian police reported four (14 the week before) apprehensions for irregular entry, while 78 (128 the week before) people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 62 people (147 the week before) were intercepted inside Hungary and collectively expelled to the Serbia side of the fence.

The daily admission rate remained at around five people per day per transit zone with no admissions over the weekends and public holidays. In the reporting period, 43 asylum-seekers were admitted: 23 into Röszke and 20 into Tompa (23 Afghans, 18 Iraqis, and 2 Syrians). UNHCR, NGOs, Government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary continue to provide assistance and support to people waiting in makeshift tents in the areas outside the transit zones. The construction work in the areas adjacent to the transit zones to build a second fence and expand the capacity of the transit zones is progressing at a fast pace.

On 14 March UNHCR conducted a monitoring visit to Békéscsaba asylum detention where detainees started a hunger strike on 13 March to protest against the detention of asylum-seekers. UNHCR held a meeting with the management of the facility and then a group discussion with eight representatives of the main nationalities together with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC). Asylum-seekers raised concern over the lack of information on the concrete steps of Dublin procedures and asylum bail, the slow procedures related to realization of Dublin transfers and verification of ID documents, and the lack of support and activities available in the facility. The hunger strike ended after a meeting with the centre management.

On 07 March the Parliament adopted a package of legal amendments with the purpose of tightening existing asylum regulations through measures implemented under the extended 'state of emergency due to mass migration'. On 15 March, the President signed the Draft Law according to which all individuals, even individuals with special needs and children above 14, entering Hungary irregularly would be removed from the territory and/or detained in the transit zones. The new law will also apply to ongoing asylum cases. [UNHCR is deeply concerned at this new law](#) which prescribes mandatory detention of all asylum-seekers, including many children, for the entire length of the asylum procedure. In practice, it means that every asylum-seeker, including children, will be detained at the border for extended periods of time. UNHCR considers that the new law violates Hungary's obligations under international and EU legislation, and that it will have a severe negative impact on asylum-seekers who have already suffered greatly.

UNHCR staff are present daily in the transit zones to monitor conditions and support persons of concern (PoCs) through counselling and, as far as possible, through referrals and protection interventions.

Situation in Bulgaria

As of 17 March 2017, 3,116 persons were registered at State Agency for Refugees (SAR) centres (of whom, 223 with granted international protection and 442 opted to live in private accommodations on their own expenses) which is a slight decrease compared to 10 March 2017 when there were 3,185 PoCs (of whom, 144 with granted international protection and 463 living at external addresses). Despite that the number of irregular entries has drastically decreased compared to the same period in 2016 (from 1,283 as of 17 March 2016 to 199 for the same period in 2017), the number of applicants registered in SAR centres has increased - 3,116 people as of 17 March 2017, compared to only 758 on 14 March 2016.

Update on Relocation

As of 20 March, the European Commission (EC) states that 14,447 asylum-seekers have been relocated within the EU, with 10,012 persons relocated from Greece (13.5 per cent of the initial 66,400 target) and 4,435 from Italy (10 per cent of the initial 39,600 target). [\(EC Figures\)](#)

From 13 to 19 March, 88 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece: to Spain (27), Slovenia (19), Malta (15), Latvia (14) and Estonia (13). There were 1,000 new pledges: from Germany (500), France (400) and Netherlands (100). In total, 10,853 relocation candidates will have left or are scheduled to leave by end of March 2017 from Greece for another EU Member State, including 10 Dublin cases. [Regarding relocations from Italy](#) for the period 13-19 March, there were to Belgium (34), to Germany (231), to Latvia (1).

From 06 to 12 March, 260 asylum-seekers were relocated from Italy: to Germany (184), The Netherlands (53) and Portugal (23). No UASC have been relocated from Italy yet. Some 46 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece: to Norway (22) and Portugal (24). In the same reporting period, there were 135 new pledges: Romania (80), Lithuania (40) and Malta (15).

European Union Developments

On 06 March, among other issues, the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed migration and the situation in the Western Balkans as part of the Foreign Affairs Council [meeting](#). The discussions were meant to prepare the 09-10 March European Council. On migration, the High Representative presented the main elements of the progress made under the [Partnership Framework](#) approach and with the five priority countries, namely Mali, Niger, Senegal, Nigeria and Ethiopia. The Maltese Presidency reported on the ongoing work on the imple-

mentation of the [Valletta Declaration](#). On the Western Balkans, Ministers notably reconfirmed the EU's engagement in and focus on the region, including through political and economic links. Ministers also [adopted](#) a revised version of the [EU Guidelines](#) for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, relevant as part of the EU's external human rights policy.

On 09-10 March, the EU Heads of State and Government met for a European Council [meeting](#). They re-appointed Donald Tusk as President of the European Council for a second term (June 2017-November 2019). They also discussed migration, including cooperation with Libya and other countries in North Africa. In particular, in the meeting's [conclusions](#), EU Leaders reiterated their support to the [Valletta Declaration](#) and indicated they "stands behind the actions undertaken by individual Member States to support the Libyan authorities as well as their North African and southern neighbours in their efforts to address the challenges of illegal migration". UNHCR and IOM were mentioned as important partners in that respect. EU Leaders also focused on readmission and return, inviting the Council to rapidly examine the Commission's [Renewed Action Plan on Return](#) and accompanying [Recommendation](#), and to pursue work on EU readmission arrangements with non-EU countries. Finally, EU Leaders called for further efforts to pursue work on the reform of the Common European Asylum System, with the view to achieving consensus during the Maltese

Presidency. EU Leaders also discussed the situation in the Western Balkans, and "reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans".

On 16 March, Eurostat published the [asylum figures](#) for 2016. They were more than 1.2 million first time applicants in 2016. Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis represented the main citizenships of first time applicants. 60 per cent of the first time applicants applied in Germany. For the related [report](#) and [infographics](#).

On 16 March, the EC launched an education programme for refugees in Turkey. The programme, called the "Conditional Cash Transfer for Education", is [funded](#) under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey. It will provide bi-monthly cash-transfers as of May 2017 to vulnerable refugee families whose children regularly attend school in Turkey. The project, worth EUR 34 million, will be implemented in partnership with UNICEF and the Turkish Red Crescent, in support of the Turkish Government.

On 17 March, the EC published a [factsheet](#) ahead of anniversary of the EU-Turkey Statement.

Timeline Overview

● Highlights

