



Arrivals and Departures: The Greek Islands, in particular Lesvos and Chios, became congested due to the combined effect of the extended ferry strike and continued arrivals linked to better weather conditions. Humanitarian actors, in coordination with relevant authorities, activated contingency measures at each location to expand accommodation capacity. Following the end of the strike on 31 January, over 5,000 people departed from the islands to mainland Greece.

Situation at Borders: The border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia closed from midday on 30 January, caused by a strike of taxi drivers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, blocking the railway; no entries into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were allowed. The site at Eidomeni was at full capacity, hosting around 900 persons. UNHCR is monitoring the developments at the border and flow of persons to the mainland. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 650 people were waiting to depart from Gevgelija. A temporary

compromise was reached in the early morning of 31 January and taxis and buses transported 577 refugees. At 7:00am on 1 February, the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia re-opened.

Condition of People: In Hungary, 735 people are in detention in the Office of Immigration and Nationality asylum detention facilities and Aliens' Police for irregular border crossing, pending return to Serbia.

Deaths at Sea: According to media reports, on 30 January, a boat heading from Turkey to Lesvos capsized, taking the lives of up to 40 people. More than 60 people were rescued from sea near the Turkish resort of Ayvacik. Local officials say the death toll is expected to rise. No updated figures were available at the time of reporting. UNHCR is following up to obtain more information.



Critical Developments

On 29 January, in Croatia, Prime Minister, Tihomir Orešković, and Slovenian Prime Minister, Miro Cerar, agreed on the need for greater cooperation between Croatia and Slovenia in tackling the refugee and migrant crisis. The Croatian Prime Minister expressed support for Slovenia's plan on improving and strengthening border controls at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This proposal is also supported by Slovak authorities.

The Prime Ministers of the Visegrád Group (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) will hold a summit on migration in Prague on 15 February to discuss the strengthening of the Schengen borders and the establishment of a reserve defence line on the border between Greece and Bulgaria as well as Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In Austria, according to media reports, authorities are discussing the possibility of returning a minimum of 50,000 rejected asylum-seekers by 2019 and a new financial incentive system for voluntary returns. In addition, the inclusion of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Georgia, Mongolia and Ghana in the list of country of origin deemed as 'safe' is also under discussion. Asylum applications from people arriving from any of these countries will be processed within ten days.

Weather Headlines

- Settled and mild weather at first, before turning colder from Wednesday with a risk of snow for northern and central parts of the region on Thursday. Strong winds with large waves developing at times in the Aegean from Thursday onwards.



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Social Media[^]

- @JuanDavid1891 tweeted: Around half of #SyrianRefugees are children. How can a country turn away children? Not just from Syria, but from everywhere.
- Chinese artist and activist, Ai Wei Wei (@aiww), alongside friends, posed as drowned Syrian

toddler Aylun Kurdi in a moving image which is being shared across multiple media and social media platforms.

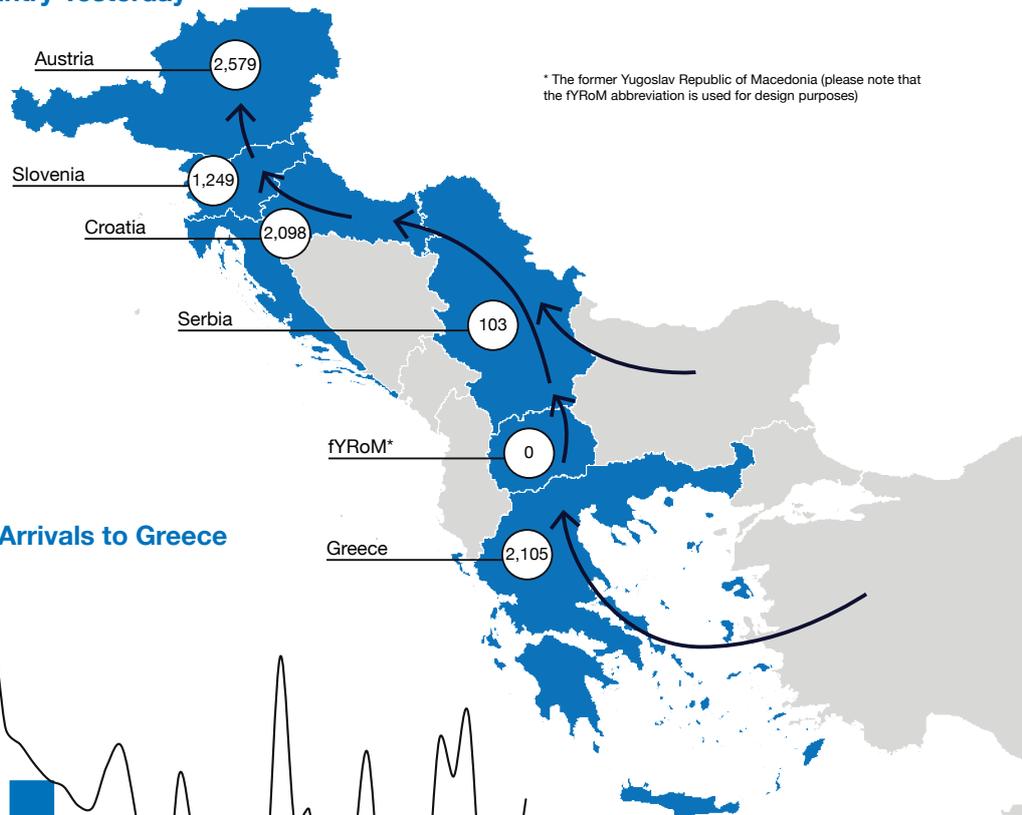
- #refugees has 146 tweets and 233 retweets an hour.

[^] Top three trending tweets using #refugees #syriacrisis displayed

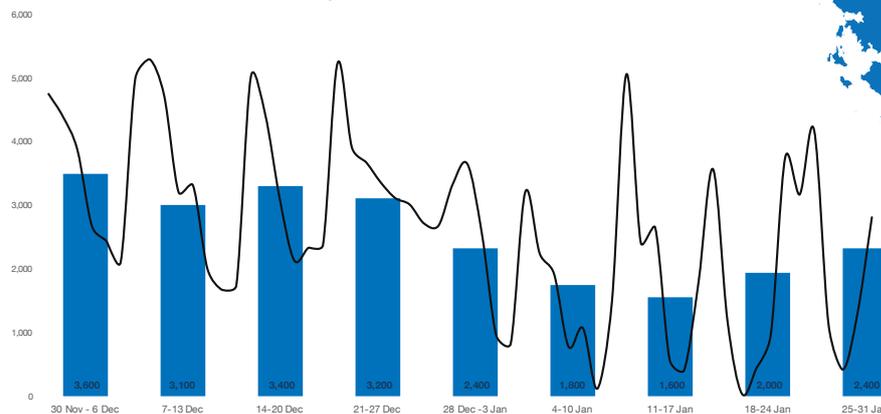


Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	2,105
fYRoM*	0
Serbia	103
Croatia	2,098
Slovenia	1,249
Austria	2,579



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 30 November to 31 January



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

11-17 January
1,458
-20% from previous week



25-31 January
2,368
18% from previous week



18-24 January
2,004
37% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
January (as of 31 Jan)
2,139
-34% from previous month





Weather conditions forecast for Greece and Countries of Onward Movements

Key locations crossed by refugees



Weather Assessment

- Across the Aegean, winds are generally light, although the wind is forecast to temporarily increase on Thursday and Friday with rough seas/large waves developing. Analysis based on previous events would suggest that this is likely to result in a reduction in the numbers of people arriving on the Greek Islands.
- Temperatures for the moment are mild across the region, particularly by day. However, the weather will turn more unsettled and colder with a risk of snow for Slovenia, Serbia and perhaps also in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Thursday. Although this is fairly typical for the time of year, these temperatures will feel cold for people exposed for long periods overnight, especially as this is a change from the recent milder weather.



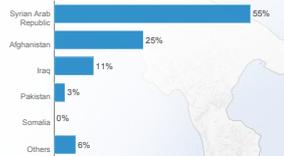
Annex 1

Key Figures from the Portal

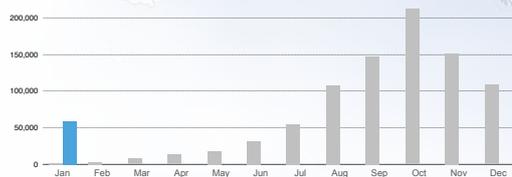
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



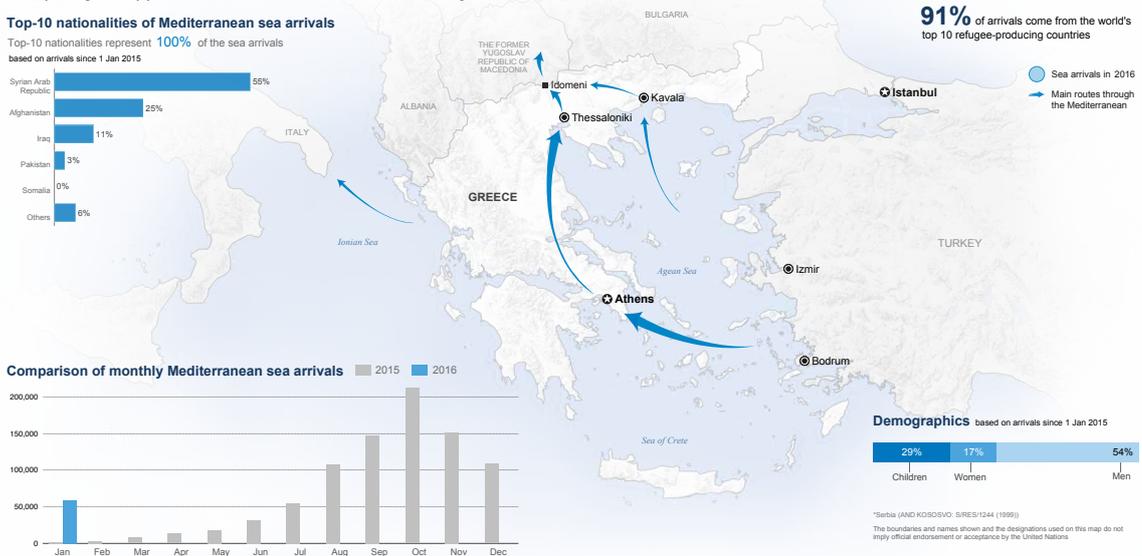
Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



58,547 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

91% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



*Serbia (AND KOSOVO: S/RES/1244 (1999))
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals





Annex 2

Refugee/Migrant Onward Movement Map

