



Arrivals and Departures

Following five days of rough seas, arrivals to the Greek Islands rose as weather improved. UNHCR expects this trend to continue with increasing arrival rates in the coming days.

Condition of People

UNHCR Regional Representative for Central Europe, Montserrat Feixas Vihe, visited the Dobova refugee reception centre in Slovenia, and underlined the need for the Slovenian authorities to prepare for a possible increase in the number of asylum seekers. She praised the improvements introduced at the reception centre.

In Greece, as the Chios hotspot started operations, the first 70 refugees were registered.

63 Syrian nationals were apprehended by the Turkish Coast Guard off the coast of Ayvalik in Turkey; according to media, 57 Syrian nationals were also apprehended off the Kaş district of Antalya as they attempted to travel to the Greek Islands.

In Croatia, 116 people remain in the Jezevo detention centre for being of other nationalities than Afghan, Iraqi or Syrian or for possessing false or no documents. UNHCR is monitoring their situation with frequent visits to the facility.

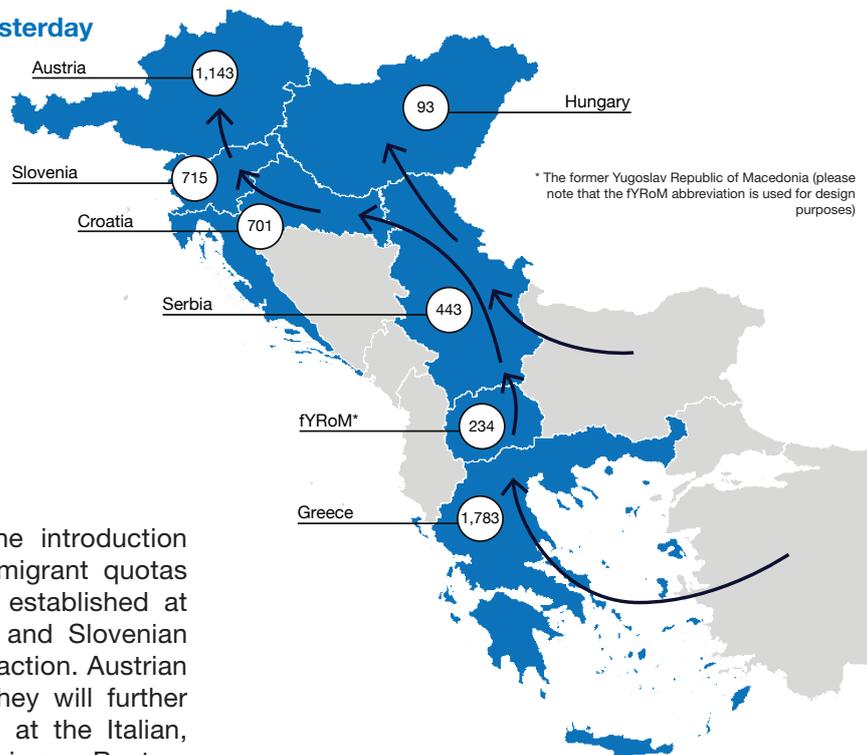
Deaths at Sea

A 4 year old child died on a boat arriving to Chios. According to media, the death is attributed to cold or humid conditions.



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	1,783
fYRoM*	234
Serbia	443
Croatia	701
Hungary	93
Slovenia	715
Austria	1,143



Critical Developments

Austrian authorities announced the introduction of daily and hourly refugee and migrant quotas modelled on those Germany has established at its borders. In reaction, Croatian and Slovenian authorities indicated taking similar action. Austrian authorities also announced that they will further increase border control measures at the Italian, Slovenian, and Hungarian crossings. Reuters reports "Croatian police said on Tuesday they had sent more officers to reinforce the border with Serbia, following Austria's announcement of tougher controls on the flow of migrants through the Balkan route towards western Europe, notably Germany."

The Greek Defence Minister mentioned in a media interview that NATO ships will send back all boats coming from Turkey carrying migrants and not refugees. He also reiterated that NATO operations will be taking place east of Greece and up to the Turkish shores. However, during a meeting held on Monday (15 February) between NATO Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, and EU Commissioner

for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, it was agreed that NATO's presence in the Aegean Sea will not aim at pushing back refugees but rather at providing crucial information and supervising the fight against human smuggling. It is to be noted that five NATO vessels (from Germany, Greece, Italy, Canada and Turkey) are already patrolling the area.

Greece, Cyprus and Lebanon agreed to cooperate in 'fighting terrorism and promoting stability' while working together on the refugee crisis in the region. The Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brussels to forge a tripartite cooperation agreement on the lines of separate similar agreements joining

Egypt, Jordan and Israel with Cyprus and Greece. Four of Greece's five new refugee registration centres are "ready to function and welcome refugees", Defense Minister Panos Kammenos stated in a joint press conference with Alternate Citizens' Protection Minister, Nikos Toskas, and Alternate Migration Policy Minister, Yannis Mouzalas.

Response

In Greece, on the mainland, the construction work of the camp like facility in Schisto (Piraeus) has been finalised, and at Diavata (Thessaloniki) similar work is ongoing.

Challenges

In Greece, with support from UNHCR, volunteers began the construction of a temporary camp for refugees at Polykastro, where thousands are waiting to travel towards Eidomeni. The Mayor of Paionia, Christos Gkoutenoudis, and municipal councilors, halted works as the local community disapproves of the establishment of the facility.

Weather Headlines

- Temperatures returning to close to the average for February in Greece, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.
- Unsettled weather moves into Western parts of Greece and Serbia later on Thursday and will move east across the Aegean on Friday.



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

1-7 February
1,161
-51% from previous week



8-14 February
1,147
-1% from previous week



15-16 February
982
-14% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
February (as of 16 Feb)
1,133
-41% from previous month



Social Media

Twitter activity around #Syrianrefugees has varied over the past month, reaching a peak of 1,900 retweets (23 January), 1,865 impressions (29 January), and 3,600 unique tweets (1 February). Mondays and Tuesdays proved to be the most popular days for the use of the hashtag.

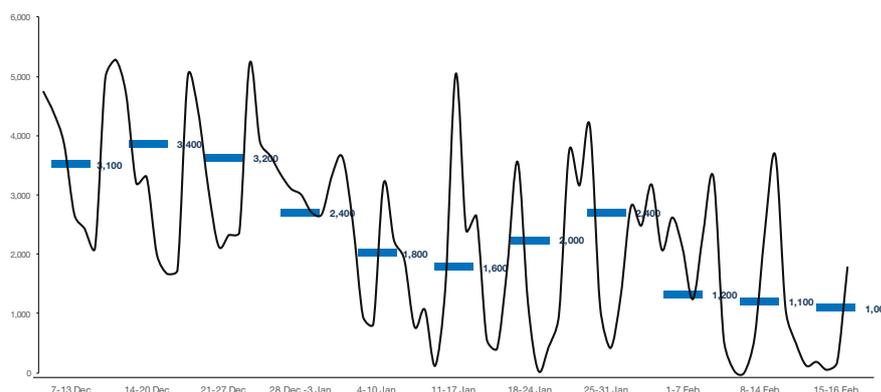
Sharp spikes in the number of retweets of #refugeeswelcome were also recorded around the same time. The large majority of the uses of

#Syrianrefugees was in English (91.03%), whilst #refugeeswelcome saw 26.88% in English, with 60% of posts originating from Germany.

Current statistics for: #SyrianRefugees

- 775 tweets & 1,737 retweets per hour
- Over 6.1 million impressions per hour
- 15.71% of tweets using #Syria were in Arabic

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 December to 16 February





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia
Key locations crossed by refugees



Weather Assessment

- Slight seas around the Greek Islands. In past events this has resulted in higher arrival numbers on the Islands.
- Temperatures will return close to average for the time of year. An area of unsettled weather with strong winds and rain will start to affect western Greece on Thursday and it will be cloudier around the Greek Islands making it feel colder to those sleeping outside.
- Rain will affect Serbia, Croatia and parts of Slovenia again on Thursday and Friday. It has rained in Croatia and Slovenia a lot this week and the rivers may respond quickly with some localised flooding and very wet ground making travel on foot difficult.



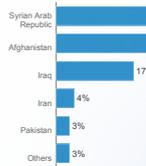
Annex 1

Key Figures from the Portal

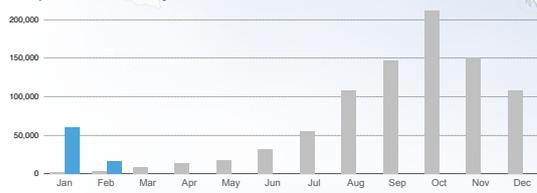
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. 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 2016



Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals

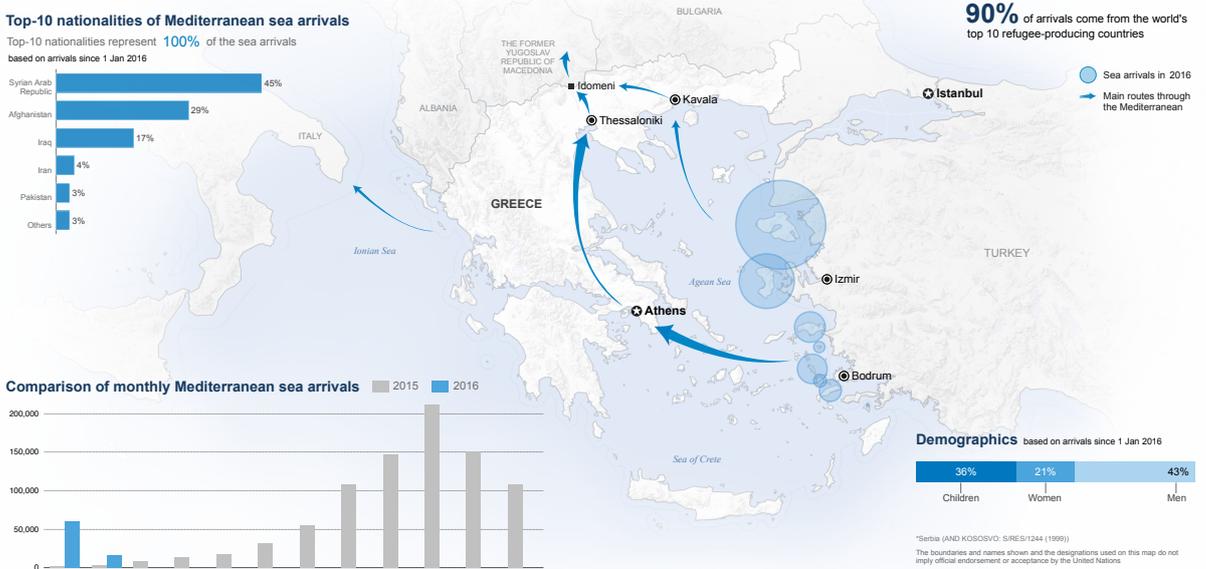


76,607 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

90% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries

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Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals





Annex 2

Refugee/Migrant Onward Movement Map

