



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

15,674

People pre-registered by the Greek Asylum Service supported by UNHCR and EASO

7,252

Accommodation places with services for relocation candidates/ other asylum seekers (including 201 for unaccompanied minors) established in line with UNHCR policy on alternatives to camps

105,525

Core Relief Items distributed such as mosquito nets, hygiene kits, etc. (83,181 on the mainland and 22,344 on the islands)

14,224

Buckets distributed to store food during Ramadan (11,420 on the mainland and 2,804 on the islands)

3,952

Shelter upgrading solutions (family tents, Refugee Housing Units, metal/folding beds) provided in mainland

16

Events organized to mark World Refugee Day 2016

2,429

Asylum seekers transported by UNHCR from sites in North Greece to Regional Asylum Offices in Thessaloniki, Alexandroupoli and Athens

200

Staff in support of the Greek Alternate Ministry of Migration Policy, Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service, and Municipality of Lesbos

41

Inter-agency coordination sectoral working groups established and chaired/co-chaired by UNHCR at country and field levels

28

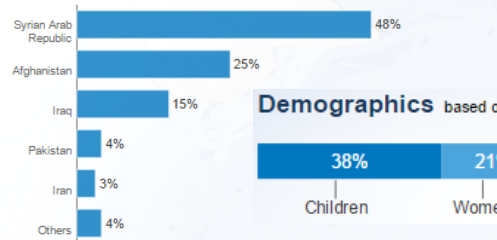
Water and Sanitation facilities (prefabricated shower and toilets) provided to partners and cleaned on monthly basis

Population of concern

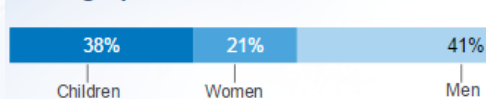
An estimated total of **57,325** people of concern in 47 sites throughout mainland Greece, six Aegean islands and UNHCR accommodation scheme.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent **100%** of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016

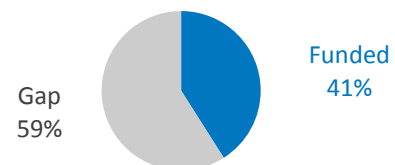


Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



Funding **USD 300 million** requested

USD 123.8 million received



Dead and missing

272 dead- **152** missing (2015)

148 dead- **46** missing (6 June 2016)

(Source: Hellenic Coast Guard, Greek territorial waters)

UNHCR Presence

Staff: **334** national (236) and international (98) staff working in UNHCR

36 international staff on mission until end of August (Emergency Deployment)

200 national staff deployed in support of Greek authorities

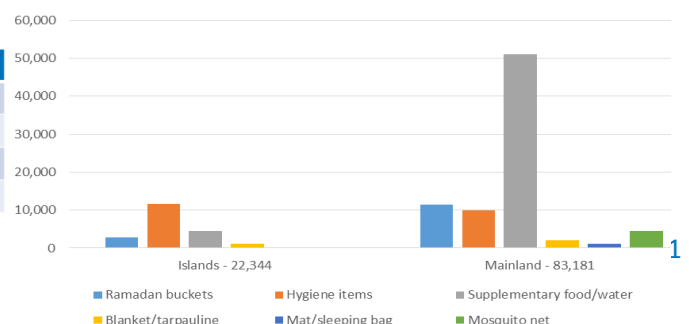
Offices:

- 1** Representation office Athens
- 5** Offices on the mainland (Thessaloniki, Polykastro, Larissa, Ioannina, Attica)
- 6** Offices on the islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros, Kos, Rhodes)

Core Relief Items distributed in June 2016

Technical Unit

	National	International
Shelter/site management	4	5
Health Officer	1	2
WASH	3	3
CCCM	6 (planned)	2 (3 more hired)



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

During the month of June, the situation in Greece continued to evolve. High temperatures on the islands and on mainland exacerbated dire living conditions resulting in increase of tensions. The heatwave has been particularly challenging for young children and the elderly. In North Greece temperatures reached 47°C inside the Army tents which are currently being replaced with UNHCR family tents which are cooler and water-proof.

On the mainland, more sites have been established by the Greek authorities, while the evacuation of the informal sites of EKO gas station and BP Hara gas station in North Greece was completed by the Hellenic Police on 13-14 June. The Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Ioannis Mouzalas, [announced in the media](#) the intention to close a significant number of sites by September, stating that “the government’s plan is for these camps to be closed and for refugees and migrants to be distributed equally throughout Greece, near large cities, in camps and apartments with less than 1,000 people by region, so as to avoid creating ghettos and to start a process of gradual integration, for as long as they remain in the country”. The authorities are assessing the sites, in collaboration with UNHCR, to identify which ones should close and which ones can be improved and remain open. Progressive decongestion of the informal site of Piraeus Port continued. About 800 refugees and migrants at the Port were transferred by the authorities from gate E1 to gate E2. Lack of hygiene, space, and access to water and sanitation facilities was of concern and coordination has been ongoing with the authorities to alleviate the dire conditions in the meantime that transfer to formal sites was organized. Tensions between refugee communities continued to emerge in various sites, particularly in Attica and North Greece. Spontaneous population movements from North and Central Greece to Athens and between sites in Attica were also recorded. An increase in movement at the land border area of Evros (Didimoticho) in both directions (irregular exit-entry) has been observed.

On the Aegean Islands, new arrivals remained low with a daily average of 50 people, slightly decreased compared to the average daily arrivals of 56 recorded in May 2016. The total arrivals in Greece from 1 January to 30 June 2016 reached 158,311 people, with 1,488 arrived in June. Examination of asylum applications on the merits of manifestly unfounded claims by Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and other nationalities started on the islands. All Syrians who applied for asylum in Lesbos have been examined through the admissibility procedure at first instance, while the process is ongoing on other islands. Following the [amendment](#) in the asylum law changing the composition of the Appeals Committees approved by the Greek Parliament on 16 June 2016 (L 4375/2016), the Committees will now be made up of two judges of the Administrative Courts, appointed by the General Commissioner of the Administrative Courts, and one lawyer nominated by UNHCR. For the first time in 2016, refugees and migrants arrived on the island of Crete (177 in total) in late May-early June, and other 35 arrived on the island of Kythnos, Cyclades, on 20 June. The new arrivals reportedly departed from Antalya and Marmaris, Turkey, respectively. From Crete they were transferred to Kos and from Kythnos to Leros Reception and Identification Centres (RIC), for registration.

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Greece on 17-19 June, accompanied by his spouse and a delegation of 17 UN officials, including UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Turk. From the island of Lesbos, where he met with refugees, authorities, humanitarian actors and volunteers, the SG [called](#) on countries in the region to respond with humane and human rights-based approach, instead of border closures, barriers and bigotry. He also [commended](#) the Greek authorities, people and humanitarian community for their extraordinary response, “*filoxenia*” (friendship towards strangers) and solidarity.

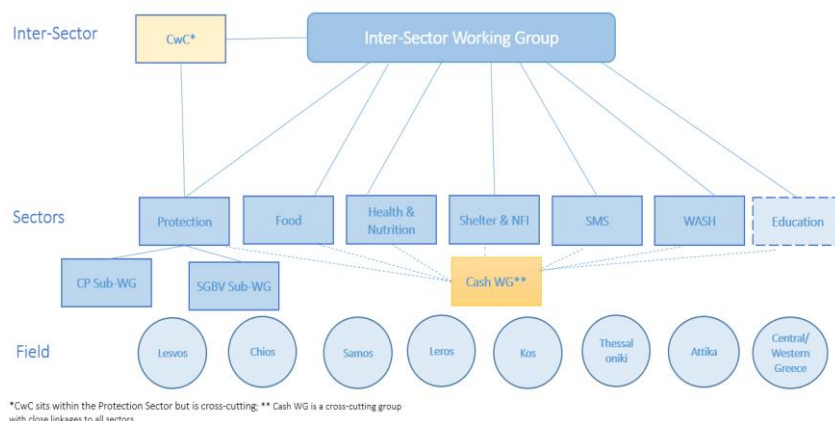


UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meets with refugee children and families at Kara Tepe site in Lesbos © UN/Rick Bajornas, 18 June 2016

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

- The coordination of the response is the primary responsibility of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy Office. Several line Ministries participate or chair one of the **41 sectoral working groups** which are supported by UNHCR to ensure efficient coordination, both at national and field level. **Over 40 national and international NGOs are participating in 11 national level working groups, including 7 governmental counterparts.** The Secretary General for Reception under the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Odysseas Voudouris, attends the Inter-Sector Working Group meetings, where he highlighted the importance of strengthened coordination among line Ministries and humanitarian actors, and UNHCR’s institutional role for refugees and its importance in coordination.

- To facilitate program planning, UNHCR regularly updates a number of important analytical information products such as the site profiles, population data, sectoral gap analysis and minimum standards for interventions developed by the working groups. The [data portal](#) functions as entry point for information sharing and dedicated sector updates are regularly made accessible to a wider public, through the creation of a dedicated portal section for each sector.

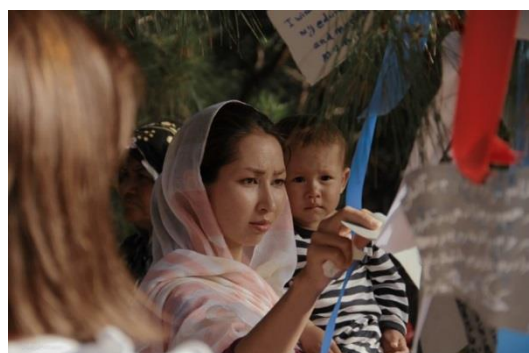


WORLD REFUGEE DAY EVENTS

- In order to commemorate the World Refugee Day (WRD), a variety of events and awareness-raising activities were organized throughout Greece during the week of 20 June by UNHCR, in collaboration with authorities, partners and volunteers. Interaction between refugees and local communities, messages of solidarity and hope, and the call to [Stand #WithRefugees](#), underpinned all activities and initiatives organized.
- UNHCR cooperated with the Hellenic Olympic Academy (HOA) and the International Olympic Truce Centre (IOTC) for a joint event in Athens, held on 22 June, to mark both WRD and Olympic Day (23 June) under the motto ["Get active on #OlympicDay #WithRefugees"](#). A total of 300 refugee children and families, along with Greek children and Olympic champion athletes, participated in a relay run from Acropolis Museum to Zappeion Megaron Park. Among athletes who led the Run was [Ibrahim](#), the Syrian refugee who carried the Olympic Torch in Eleonas site in April 2016. The run ended with a ceremony, where an "Olympic Values Tree", a project realized by a Greek artist in collaboration with refugee children from Ritsona and Schisto sites, was assembled with olive branches inscribed with Olympic values. Live music, singing performance by refugee children from Afghanistan, distribution of awards and diplomas for the children and sports activities organized by Olympic athletes and volunteers, were among the highlights of the ceremony. The event was well attended by the general public, dignitaries and representatives of the Greek authorities, including the Alternate Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection, Nikas Toskas. [Video](#) and [web story](#) on the event are available online.
- In the mainland, an artistic workshop was organized at Cherso site from 16 to 18 June by the cartoonists Thierry de Barrigue and Pierre-Olivier Comment with the support of UNHCR and IRC. The workshop included drawing and cartoons based refugee stories, hopes and dreams. In Ioannina on 23 June, UNHCR co-organized in cooperation with Ioannina municipality, region of Epirus, OXFAM and other local actors, a [cultural event](#) including speeches, refugee stories and music and dance performances by refugee, local and international groups.



Ibrahim al-Hussein, a Syrian refugee, who carried the Olympic Flame in Athens as part of the torch relay for the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro takes part in the run relay commemorating World Refugee Day in Athens along with children from Greece and Afghanistan. © UNHCR/ A. Zavallis, 22 June 2016



A young refugee women and her son pin a message written on discarded piece of rubber dinghy to the Solidarity Tree in Lesvos, to mark World Refugee Day. © UNHCR/ B. Cheshirkov, 21 June 2016

- Several events were also organized on the Aegean Islands. At Mytilene Castle in [Lesvos](#), visitors were invited to pin to a "Solidarity Tree" messages of hope and remembrance written on fragments of a discarded rubber dinghy once used to carry refugees from Turkey. Artists from various European countries collaborated to perform a drama project called "Meeting the Odyssey", while Bulgarian artist Nora Ampova launched the exhibition titled "Hide and Seek" inspired by the 2015/2016 refugee emergency. On [Chios](#) the movie "The Good Lie", about Sudanese 'lost boys' resettled to the US, was projected on 24 June at the open Summer Cinema of Chios town. On [Samos](#), refugees from Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan and elsewhere shared recipes with the chef of a local restaurant, where they helped him to bring alive the flavors of their home countries. Almost 130 refugees and 30 locals attended. On [Leros](#), an exhibition of children's drawings

on hopes and dreams and a three-hour chess tournament took place. A “human library” was organized at the premises of the Leros Trade Association, whereby refugees shared their stories of displacement. The week-long events also included film screenings and a theatre workshop for refugees. On [Kos](#), events kick-started with an opening ceremony on 20 June including collective kitchens, music performances and the launch of a six-day film festival. A photo exhibition entitled “Refugees in Time” was also organized in cooperation with the Historical Archive of Greek Refugees, the Kos Municipality and the International Hippocratic Foundation of Kos, displaying photos of the Greek refugee crisis in 1920s-1930s and photos of the current refugee situation taken by UNHCR photographers. Among those attending the events on Kos was Dionysis Arvanitakis, who became known as “the baker of Kos” when he began handing out free bread and pastries to refugees from the back of his bakery van on the island.

MAINLAND RESPONSE

Protection

- **Provision of information.** UNHCR continued to conduct group and individual information sessions on asylum in Greece, family reunification and relocation and on the pre-registration exercise throughout the mainland. In **Epirus region**, Western Greece, UNHCR established a permanent presence in all the main sites and adapted the way to provide information in view of Ramadan and the particularly hot weather, by conducting **info sessions during evening**, after the Iftar.
- **Support to people with specific needs.** UNHCR continued to assist people with specific needs, including extremely vulnerable individuals, through identification, referral and support by partners, including GCR, Praksis, METAdrasi, Arsis, Solidarity Now, Ecumenical Refugee Program (ERP) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and in close collaboration with the authorities. **Training on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)** prevention and response for UNHCR staff was conducted in Thessaloniki for 20 staff. Meetings were held with two local organizations on how Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and/or Intersex (LGBTI) refugees could be included in the local protection network.



Refugee and Greek children celebrate the end of school year with a public event at Traiber Square, central Athens © UNHCR/ Y. Kyvernitis, 11 June 2016

- **“Blue Dots” Child and Family Support Hubs and child protection.** UNHCR and partners increased efforts for children who reside in the sites to be involved in events which might boost their well-being and enhance peaceful coexistence/ integration with the host community. More than 90 refugee children and their parents from the Elliniko and Schisto sites as well as from an urban squat with the support of Network for Children’s Rights and Save the Children (both implementing partners of UNHCR for children’s activities in the Blue Dots of Elliniko and Schisto) celebrated on 11 June 2016 with migrant children living in Athens the **end of the school year** with a public event at Traiber Square, central Athens. The Network for Children’s Rights managed to organise a **multinational colourful event** that gave voice to the creativity, energy and talent of hundreds of children that joined cheerfully the festivities. The evening included theatre and sign language performances, choirs,

games and the stories by 15 authors narrated simultaneously in Greek, Arabic and Farsi. A gifted Afghan teenager from Schisto surprised the audience with his live beat-boxing, while children and families said goodbye in a joint spontaneous dance on traditional Afghan music sounds. On 9 June 2016, [UNHCR Honorary Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador Barbara Hendricks](#) visited Schisto site in Attica region, as part of her awareness raising visit in Greece. At the Blue Dot services area in Schisto, she had the opportunity to play with the kids and also to discuss with the representative of an adolescent girls’ group who follow a photography seminar, a sixteen year old girl from Afghanistan, their concerns and challenges.

- **Support to relocation scheme and accommodation capacity.** UNHCR continued to support the relocation process and the enhancement of reception capacity of the Greek Government. As of 30 June, under UNHCR’s accommodation project for relocation candidates and other vulnerable asylum seekers, a total of **7,252 accommodation places** have been identified throughout Greece against a target of 20,000 to be reached by the end of 2016. Up to 30 June, 6,183 pledges (9%) has been made by the Member States and 3,802 (5.8%) persons have been accepted so far by 21 EU member states and Switzerland against



UNHCR Honorary Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador Barbara Hendricks meets with refugee children at Schisto site in Attica region © UNHCR/S. Nanou, 9 June 2016

the agreement to relocate 66,400 persons from Greece until September 2017. In line with its global [Policy on Alternatives to Camps](#), through the Accommodation for Relocation Project in Greece, UNHCR is not only supporting the relocation scheme as one of the possible solutions for eligible asylum-seekers, but also pursuing **alternatives to sites so that refugees have the possibility to live with greater dignity**, independence and normality as members of the host community. This modality has a positive impact in the integration of refugees as a durable solution for those asylum seekers that may remain as recognized refugees in Greece, increasing interaction with the host community and better opportunities of integration through interaction. Finally, this contributes to a greater understanding within the community of asylum-seekers and refugees, helping to combat negative perceptions and allowing a more favourable protection environment.



Ghulam Ali Jaffari, his wife Nabila, and their two-year-old son Amir talk with UNHCR staff while waiting to collect their newly issued ID's by the Greek Asylum Service following the pre-registration procedure. The 3 arrived to Greece on the 28 February, having traveled to Turkey from Kandahar province in Afghanistan. © UNHCR/A. Zavallis, 14 June 2016

■ **Support to access to asylum and pre-registration exercise.** The pre-registration exercise started on 8 June, as per the [joint press release](#) issued by the Greek Asylum Service, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and UNHCR. More than **260 staff in two teams** have been working six days a week (Monday to Saturday) to make this operation a reality. Temporary **pre-registration hubs** have been set up in different parts of the country to allow for timely processing. From the beginning of the exercise to 30 June 2016, a total of **15,674 people were pre-registered** and over 18,300 have been provided with a wristband in preparation for their pre-registration. They have received **asylum seeker cards**, valid for one year, allowing them to reside legally in Greece and have the right to access services, pending the full lodging of their asylum application, which should be possible within maximum six months after the pre-registration. UNHCR provided technical guidance on the design, planning and preparation of the exercise, as well as material and human resources, and support in the identification of people with specific needs. The **Protection Desk** as an integral part of the pre-registration hubs, identifies and follows up on protection cases, with support from social workers from the NGO

Praksis. Among the over 15,500 people pre-registered so far, a total of **388 unaccompanied children and 291 separated children (UASC)** have been identified and referred to the Protection Desk, where UNHCR and NGO members of the Child Protection Sub Working Group conduct a rapid Best Interest Assessment (BIA). The results of the BIA are then gathered by the authorities for further referral to EKKA, the specialized government entity in charge of UASC. At the end of the exercise, those pre-registered will be given an **appointment with the Asylum Service** to fully lodge their asylum claim and formally access family reunification and relocation. Asylum seekers will be notified of the date of their appointment by a text message (SMS). People with specific needs, including UASC are being prioritized for appointments. The exercise is proceeding as planned, with processing capacity now increased to about 700 people per day. The pre-registration is expected to be completed by early August. Pre-registration has been ongoing in the Attica and Thessaloniki regions and has later moved to Central and West Greece.

- **Staffing support to authorities and partners.** UNHCR continued to enhance its staffing support to the Greek authorities by the deployment of **four staff to EKKA**, thus doubling the capacity of the government entity for UASC's for properly responding to referrals. A total of **200 Greek nationals are deployed** to assist the **Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Greek Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service**, among others. UNHCR staff and deployees are recruited through its partners International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Education

- UNHCR continued its constructive dialogue with the **Ministry of Education (MoE)** and the **office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy** on access to education for refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. The **first inter-ministerial meeting with IGO/NGO actors** was organized, including UNHCR, UNICEF, representatives from the European Commission and NGOs. In view of the gradual integration of refugee children into the national education system, the authorities called humanitarian actors to present their projects and enhance their presence at the sites. The MoE had also announced the **results of an educational activities assessment** conducted by a Government-commissioned Committee in 43 temporary accommodation sites in the Greek mainland. Only in 4-5 locations designated learning spaces exist out of the 43 sites, and a total of 105 interventions for children and 48 for adults were recorded, carried out by a variety of actors (international and national NGOs, Universities, other groups of civil society, etc.). In seven sites refugees had already initiated recreational activities, art,



Nikos Frangos (L) from SOS Children's Village's during a Greek language class he teaches 5 times a week to a group of Afghan refugee women, in Schisto site in Attica region. © UNHCR/A. Zavallis, 1 July 2016

creative games and language lessons (mostly English, but also Greek and Arabic, in some cases Math lessons). The academic year 2016/17 foresees training of teachers and awareness raising initiatives.

- In the interim period, **non-formal education activities continue to be implemented by several actors**. UNHCR continues to support these efforts through its partners Save the Children and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), in the context of the Blue Dots concept. Also in partnership with the Municipality of Thessaloniki and Greek Universities, an informal **Education Center was set up in Diavata**, where more than 60% of children participate in education/recreational activities in the site for more than 15 hours per week.

Health

- UNHCR continued to advocate and provide technical support to the Greek Ministry of Health through **3 Public Health Officers**. Living conditions in camps remain difficult and especially mothers voice health and nutrition as main concerns for their children. Mental health issues are on the rise, and **psychosocial support** is being provided to ease the uncertainty and anxiety among refugees and migrants about their future prospects. Scabies has been an issue in some sites in North Greece, including Lagkadikia and Petra Olympou where UNHCR has been supporting hygiene promotion. UNHCR also facilitates **transport of non-urgent medical cases** to hospitals and medical facilities, when the ambulance service is not provided.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The national Food Security Working Group (FSWG), chaired by UNHCR and co-chaired by the International Orthodox Christian Charities, published through Save the Children a **Ramadan guide for Greek authorities and catering companies** contracted by the Hellenic Army, to raise awareness of the importance of the month long Islamic religious period. The Food Security Working Group has also issued two **Operational Guidance documents with recommendations for food and nutrition standards** for all accommodation sites as well as food and nutrition guidance for children below six years old, which includes recipes with locally available products. Guideline documents are being distributed to all food providers, agencies and assistance actors. The FSWG also works in close collaboration with the national Cash/Voucher Working Group and NFI/Shelter Working Group.
- A Food Task Force under the overall responsibility of the Secretary General Voudouris from the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy was established on 17 June. The Task Force is conducting a **food and cash assessment** in the different sites to gather information on how to improve quality of meals provided to refugees and migrants each day. The assessment will establish a **roadmap for transitioning from catered meals in most sites to a harmonized cash/voucher program** that would include cash for food. Key to the transition will be the construction of communal cooking facilities where possible in the site where the cash/voucher program is established. The findings of the field assessments are also expected to facilitate the transition of the food assistance provision from the Ministry of Defense to the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy.



Refugee children and families conduct their daily ablutions using the chemical toilets and showers provided by UNHCR thanks to ECHO funding in Alexandria site © UNHCR/C. Wolf, 17 June 2016

DRC, thanks to the generous contribution of [European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection \(ECHO\)](#). In Malakasa, Filipiada and Katsika, UNHCR installed a total of **9 prefabricated shower container units** (36 in total), **6 toilet container units** (30 in total) and **2 toilet facilities for disabled people**. UNHCR also continued to chair the **national WASH Working Group**, to provide **technical assistance** to the authorities and other humanitarian agencies in identifying appropriate WASH solutions, and in **redesigning WASH containers for disabled access**, both showers and toilets.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR continued its WASH interventions in the mainland, directly by its **six WASH Officers** and through its partners IRC, Samaritan's Purse and



UNHCR replacing old Army tents with newer and larger UNHCR family tents in Nea Kavala site, North Greece © UNHCR/J. Sobral, 21 June 2016

Shelter and Core Relief Items

- **Shelter**. In June, UNHCR intensified its efforts in support of the authorities for expanding the reception capacity on the mainland through **shelter upgrading interventions**. This is a **contribution to the 30,000**



UNHCR set up shading to protect tents from hot temperatures at Elliniko site, Attica region © UNHCR/ J. Sobral, 21 June 2016

accommodation places to be established by the Greek authorities, in addition to the **7,252** places with services for relocation candidates and other vulnerable asylum seekers already established by UNHCR against the 20,000 commitment. Shelter upgrading interventions include, among others: the change of **site plan and installation of 436 family tents** in **Nea Kavala**; the approval by the authorities of the changed site plan proposed by UNHCR in **Giannitsa, Alexandria, Katsika, and Ritsona** and the progressive substitution of Army tents with UNHCR tents in **Giannitsa, Katsika and Alexandria**; the emergency shading commenced in **Skaramangas and Elliniko**; and the finalization of the **design for containers** and site planning for modular camp to improve conditions for refugees in the mid-term. In response to the dire conditions at the sites in Western Greece and in preparation for the winter season, UNHCR has reached

an agreement to restore **nine buildings in Agia Eleni** that could potentially host up to **500** individuals. Discussions with the Municipality of Ioannina have already started to complement this project with additional apartments and buildings in order to ensure better living conditions to the **900** refugees and migrants living in Katsika site due to be closed soon. UNHCR and other organizations, such as Oxfam and Lighthouse Relief, developed and presented a **plan to upgrade Katsika** site to the authorities to ensure better conditions for refugees pending the closure of the camp. The new site include the improvement of the water and electric system, the development of an area destined to child activities, information points, spaces for individual counselling, community spaces specific for women, men and youth. Local Greek Army has already endorsed the plan and renovation are supposed to start in early July, right after Eid.

- **Core Relief Items.** In June, thanks to the generous contribution by [EU humanitarian aid](#), UNHCR conducted a massive distribution of “**Ramadan Tupperware**” buckets as a measure to ensure that people of concern could safely store food, especially important during Ramadan period. The distribution was done in cooperation with several partners including Samaritan’s Purse, IRC, DRC, MSF, Oxfam, ADRA, Intervolve, Pampeiraiki and other volunteer groups. In addition, UNHCR continued to distribute other Core Relief Items such as: blankets, shoes, bottled drinking water, clothing, detergent, female intimate hygiene kits, hygiene parcels, jerry cans, baby care kits, kitchen sets, mattresses, mosquito nets, plastic tarpaulins 4 x 5 m, poncho rain wear, rubber mats, sanitary napkins, shampoo, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, soap, socks, solar lamp, supplementary food pack, UNHCR bags and wheel chairs. UNHCR distributed **a total of 83,181 Core Relief Items** in the mainland in June, including over **11,420 buckets**.



Kids started running, laughing and asking “What’s inside? Toys?” when they saw the boxes with non-food items and dry food being unloaded at the Thermopiles refugee site in Greece. “No toys this time,” UNHCR staff replied, “but useful objects for your families, as well as biscuits, sweet sesame sticks and dates.” “Dates” turnout out to be the key word, as they are widely loved and eaten particularly during Ramadan. Everyone smiled and offered to help in the distribution, just like it happened on similar occasions in Kipselochori and Volos in late June. The items distributed at the three sites, with funding by the ECHO, included mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, baby care kits, female dignity kits etc. © UNHCR/Z. Hakim 22 June 2016

Site Management Support

- UNHCR continued to support the Greek authorities in the management of the sites through the deployment of **11 Site Management Support and Site Planning experts**, by providing technical assistance in the sites and training to the government site managers, both directly and through its partner DRC. UNHCR remains the lead on all protection related efforts in support of the Government, in particular for standards and guidance.



Afghan refugees during a projection of a movie organized by UNHCR at Schisto site where more than 1,600 refugees, mainly from Afghanistan find temporary shelter until their documents are processed by the Greek Asylum service. © UNHCR/A. Zavallis, 30 June 2016

Access to Energy

- UNHCR Communication with Communities team continued to coordinate efforts to provide sites on the mainland with Internet access, also through the deployment of a **Connectivity Expert**. A total of **24 locations have active Wi-Fi networks for persons of concern**. In 10 locations, Wi-Fi installations are either planned or already in progress, through both national and international NGOs and volunteer groups, private sector initiatives as well as Greek civil society organizations.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR, in close collaboration with the authorities and other humanitarian actors, strengthened efforts to engage the refugee and host communities and implement **Community-Based Initiatives (CBIs)** to ensure more dignified living conditions in the temporary accommodation sites. As per UNHCR strategy and SOPs, the interventions will include small-scale, community driven projects, identified by the community to close gaps in services that might lead to protection risks. CBIs are considered to be complementary to UNHCR's regular program by addressing immediate smaller scale needs as part of the comprehensive protection agenda of the operation. The basic principles for the designing of the CBIs include: voluntarism, participation, transparency and efficiency.



UNHCR High Profile Supporter and actor [Theo James](#) met Wafaa and her family. With her two children at her side she described the long and disappointing wait to join her husband in Germany as an asylum seeker. In Aleppo she had been a fashion designer. Clearly artistic she had adorned her family's tent with beautiful models made from cardboard, cards and messages full of color that had been built from discarded food packaging. © UNHCR/ P. Wu, 8 June 2016

Logistics

- UNHCR **Transportation for Relocation system** is supporting all asylum seekers to reach the Regional Asylum Offices (RAO) for registration with the Greek Asylum Service, for both relocation candidates and other asylum seekers (prioritized based on vulnerability). From Epirus to Thrace regions, a fleet of four vehicles is on duty 24/7. One vehicle is dedicated to serve the axis Drama-Chalkero to RAO Alexandroupoli. Three vehicles are supporting the RAO Thessaloniki's area of responsibility. More vehicles can be added according to the needs of transportation. UNHCR Transportation for Relocation is supporting all movements related to the Accommodation for Relocation project, providing transportation to accommodation organized by UNHCR through its implementing partners, from any site to dedicated hotels, apartments and host families in Thessaloniki. In June, a total of **2,429 asylum seekers have been transported from the sites in North Greece to the RAO in Thessaloniki, Alexandroupoli and Athens**, and to their accommodation under the Accommodation for Relocation project.

ISLANDS RESPONSE

Protection

- First line reception upon arrival.** UNHCR, together with partners and other organizations, continued to provide immediate response upon arrival to refugees and migrants in all islands. On Lesbos, with the decrease in arrivals since 20 March 2016, UNHCR reduced its presence at the shore but maintained its **coordination with rescue agencies and volunteers** in order to ensure effective response in case of arrivals.
- Provision of information.** UNHCR continued to conduct group and individual information sessions on rights, obligations, and procedures, including on asylum in Greece, family reunification, the possibility of readmission, relocation, and assisted voluntary return for new arrivals on the Aegean islands, in cooperation with the Greek Asylum Service and other partners. On **Lesbos**, UNHCR with Internews continue to co-chair the Communicating with Communities Working Group. On **Chios**, UNHCR installed **three billboards** at Souda temporary accommodation site to display important info including bus schedule and asylum appointments. Five further billboards are being procured for installation at Dipethe temporary accommodation site and all sections of Vial Reception and Identification Centre (RIC). A system is in place whereby the Regional Asylum Office (RAO) share appointments lists twice a week and UNHCR posts the lists in Souda and Dipethe, searching for interviewees using the results of the UNHCR-led joint mapping and organising buses each morning and evening. On **Samos**, UNHCR repaired and **upgraded the megaphone system** in the Vathy RIC, enabling access to public announcements for security, registration, asylum procedures or other purposes. On 13-14 June UNHCR facilitated **participatory workshops on Communication with Communities (CwC)** and Community-Based Protection in Samos. Along with a CwC training in Attica on 16-17 June, this complete a series of introductory CwC workshops provided by UNHCR experts in Athens, Chios, Kos and Samos, with participants also traveling to these locations from North Greece, Lesbos, Kalymnos and Leros islands. Throughout this series of workshops, which took place from April to June 2016, **47 UNHCR participants, two First Reception Service/Reception and Identification Service staff and three local Municipality representatives**, among others, were offered training and capacity-building support. On **Leros**, UNHCR provided **50 information sessions**, benefitting a total of over 150 refugees and migrants. On **Kos**, UNHCR team provided over **80 information sessions**, benefitting a total of over **260** refugees and migrants. UNHCR team in **Rhodes** provided info sessions to both arrivals in Crete (177 refugees and migrants in total).



Refugee children playing under the shade in Kara Tepe temporary accommodation site on Lesbos © UNHCR / B. Cheshirkov, 10 June 2016

■ **Support to people with specific needs.** UNHCR continued to facilitate access to specialized services, prioritization for registration and asylum procedures, and dignified accommodation to vulnerable new arrivals, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), elderly, pregnant women, lactating mothers, single-headed households, medical cases, families with young children, people with disabilities and survivors of shipwrecks, among others. On **Lesvos**, a **SGBV training** was carried out for 40 persons (UNHCR staff and Partners) on key concepts, SGBV causes and consequences, SGBV guiding principles and how to prevent and respond to SGBV in the refugee context. On **Chios**, UNHCR organized the first **Training for Border Guards** on 23-24 June, inviting Hellenic Police and Coast Guard officials from Limnos, Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Chios, Ikaria and Agathonisi as well as locally Chios based FRONTEX and RIS officials. The training focused on procedures and basic protection principles in the context of managing mixed migratory flows at border locations. UNHCR's implementing partner Praksis **outreach team regularly monitors UASC** in all sites on Chios three times per week. On the island, UNHCR

continues to provide **hotel accommodation to 50 extremely vulnerable individuals** and family members and to assist them with prioritized access to the asylum procedures and referrals to the mainland. A **Child Friendly Space** is now operational again in Vial, in collaboration with Save the Children, while the one in Souda remains operational with the Hellenic Red Cross. **Mother and Baby Area** is open in Souda and in process of reopening in Vial. Works started for the construction of a football pitch and an outside **shaded seating area** for Vial through Samaritan's Purse. On **Samos**, **29 vulnerable persons** have been accommodated in **shelters and hotels** funded by UNHCR during the reporting period. Over **60** vulnerable persons have been referred to other shelters in the island. On **Leros**, UNHCR provided essential material assistance to **5** vulnerable persons were provided, while **20** were transferred from Leros to other islands for special medical assistance and medical exams, and one family (4 persons) with severe medical condition (paraplegia) received hotel accommodation. On **Kos**, UNHCR through Praksis continued to manage a **dedicated transit facility for UASC** with a capacity to host **32** minors. Due to an increase on the number of UASC, UNHCR also provided **hotel based accommodation** as an interim measure. On **Rhodes**, UNHCR had a meeting with the Prosecutor of the Appeal's Court in the Dodecanese to discuss about conditions **UASC**, in particular those in detention. A total of **24 asylum seekers** registered at Rhodes Regional Asylum Office either as relocation candidates or family reunification have been referred to UNHCR Accommodation for Relocation project in Athens. Following UNHCR advocacy, the Police in Rhodes lifted restriction of movement (prohibition to leave the island) for nine registered relocation candidates. UNHCR has been **providing and coordinating assistance to the shipwreck survivors in Crete**, including accommodation, medical and psychosocial assistance, and legal information.

Education

- On **Lesvos**, several NGOs, including Mercy Corps, Humanitarian Support Agency, Save the Children, Praksis, Iliaktida, have launched Greek and **English language courses** for refugees and migrants. On **Chios**, all young children at Souda and Dipethe are attending volunteer-run learning centre 2-3 times a week. On **Leros**, the **English lessons** programme organized in collaboration with the local authorities will continue for two additional months and will be extended to **30 children**. On **Rhodes**, UNHCR established contact with professors at **University of Aegean** (Pedagogical Department, Faculty of Mediterranean Studies), who expressed firm intention to support UNHCR in language classes and other educational activities for refugees.

Health

- UNHCR continued to provide new arrivals with **primary health care** through its partner WAHA. More than **150 medical consultations** were provided in June on **Kos and Kalymnos** islands by the medical team. On **Leros**, a WAHA fixed clinic in PIKPA site for vulnerable cases provided **more than 200 medical consultations**. Also, **219** refugees and migrants were **transferred by** UNHCR from Lepida RIC to PIKPA and Leros Municipal Hospital for medical reasons. Moreover, on Lesbos UNHCR is **present at the hospital** to guide refugees and migrants and liaise with physicians to ensure their access to primary health care. UNHCR also coordinates the Health Working Group with Mytilene Hospital.

Food Security and Nutrition

- On **Lesvos**, UNHCR coordinates the Food Working Group with Mercy Corps. On **Chios**, UNHCR continues to provide approximately **200 vulnerable cases** in Souda, Dipethe and hotels with **supplementary meals**. On **Samos**, UNHCR provided expert advice to the Army regarding **protection sensitive management of food distributions** and appropriate mechanisms to distribute during Ramadan. On **Kos**, a total of **4,809 persons were provided with bottled water** due to water shortages experienced at the RIC. Food parcels including **energy biscuits** were also distributed to new arrivals, through Samaritan's Purse.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR continued to support WASH activities. On **Lesvos**, UNHCR co-chairs the WASH and Shelter Working Group with IRC. On **Chios**, UNHCR replaced broken windows and privacy partitions in WASH blocks and provided curtains in accommodation containers installed by Samaritan's Purse in Vial. In Dipethe, UNHCR provided installation of **six plumbed latrines**, two **shower cubes** with hot water, chilled **potable water** and cleaning, through Samaritan's Purse. On **Samos**, UNHCR continues to respond to urgent plumbing issues which have enabled access to water supply and WASH facilities. On **Leros**, UNHCR through Samaritan's Purse provided **cleaning services in the beach** in front of Lepida RIC. Additionally, UNHCR provided cleaning services to PIKPA facility. Lastly, in Lepida RIC UNHCR promoted **hygiene and hands washing campaigns** through Save the Children, placed sings for personal hygiene promotion in the shelter area. On **Kos**, UNHCR provided beach site cleaning and is supporting improvements of WASH conditions starting from an emergency intervention at the UASC area in Pyli RIC to solve critical needs (risk of water contamination and sewage licking). On **Rhodes**, an assesment on WASH situation was conducted in coordination with Kos team as regards improvements at Sfageia informal accommodation site.

Shelter and Core Relief Items

- Shelter.** After the EU-Turkey Statement, on **Lesvos** UNHCR has been focusing shelter interventions at Moria Reception and Identification Centre towards protection of **women and children**, including establishment of **shaded areas**. On **Chios**, in Dipethe UNHCR provided **shaded Ramadan area and picnic tables**, through Samaritan's Purse. Improvement plans for the RIC of **Kos** and **Leros** have been developed by UNHCR and the authorities in the respective locations and are currently being implemented, including installation of shading areas, along with other **'summerization' initiative** aiming at mitigating the risks for women, children and other vulnerable individuals. On **Leros**, UNHCR is providing tarps for shading and **47 fans**. On **Kos**, due to the lack of an accommodation site in addition to the RIC, UNHCR with partners provide accommodation to more than **110 refugees in hotels and apartments**, accounting to more than **2,500 beds/days** in the month of June.
- Core Relief Items.** UNHCR, directly and through partners, distributed a total of **22,344 Core Relief Items**, including **2,804 buckets** specifically designed to store the food during the **holy month of Ramadan**. On **Lesvos**, on 24 June a **distribution centre for Core Relief Items** was opened by UNHCR and its partner Samaritan's Purse in Kara Tepe, in collaboration with the Lesvos Municipality which is managing the site. This new distribution centre will make it easier for relief items (blankets, torches and hygiene kits) to reach refugee and migrant families and individuals. It will also help UNHCR partners from the Municipality, Samaritan's Purse, the Red Cross, and the Humanitarian Support Agency to more efficiently manage distribution, stocks, and identify needs quickly. On **Lesvos**, UNHCR co-chairs the NFI Working Group with Samaritan's Purse. On **Leros**, UNHCR provided core relief items, distributed by Samaritan's Purse, including 113 hygiene kits and 113 sleeping mats. On **Kos**, UNHCR, directly and through partners, distributed a total 24 mats and sleeping bags, 100 hygiene items, 115 items of clothing and 85 buckets. On **Rhodes**, UNHCR delivered CRIs to the head of Municipality volunteers at Sfageia site, including 140 medium thermal blankets, 685 sanitary napkins ladies, 105 baby care kits, 90 hygiene parcels and 80 UNHCR bags. UNHCR team distributed also hygiene items to refugees and migrants in Rhodes detention facility.



Representatives of UNHCR, Lesvos Municipality and Samaritan's Purse inaugurate the Core Relief Items distribution centre in Kara Tepe temporary accommodation site on Lesvos © UNHCR / B. Cheshirkov, 24 June 2016

Site Management Support

- In line with the **resumption of humanitarian assistance provision at the Reception and Identification Centres** by UNHCR, agreed with the Greek authorities in view of their efforts to promote alternatives to detention, UNHCR is strengthening its support, **with a priority given to meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals**. Engagement in the accommodation facilities other than the RICs has also continued. On **Lesvos**, a **participatory assessment** with sixteen focus groups was held in Kara Tepe, by multi-functional teams representing twelve IGO/NGOs. Additionally, UNHCR has **strengthened site management capacity** at Kara Tepe by recruiting eight Municipal staff. On **Chios**, UNHCR is the main site management support in Souda and Dipethe, including site administration and private security (through the Municipal Development Company), NFIs and WASH (through Samaritan's Purse), and health (through WAHA as well as MDM). In Vial, UNHCR provides support though NFI distribution. On **Samos**, UNHCR restored site management support in Vathy RIC, including through donation of fridge for medicines, installation of billboards and WASH messaging through Samaritan's Purse. On **Leros**, UNHCR is restoring comprehensive support in Lepida RIC, including WASH, shelter allocation, CwC, SGBV prevention, child-friendly and educational activities, health and NFI distribution. On **Kos**, UNHCR scaled up its support to Pyli RIC through a multi sector approach, starting from WASH interventions.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- On **Chios**, to support the host community, particularly residents of properties adjacent to the refugee accommodation sites, UNHCR has agreed to repair damages sustained to a house during a fire incident in Souda. UNHCR has also agreed to fund two staff for a period of three months to work within the Municipality on supporting the refugee response and on community engagement. Similar initiatives are being planned on the other islands.

GAPS, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

- Challenges associated with the response are mainly linked to the new operational environment. Reception sites are spread over several regions of Greece with populations ranging between 200 and 4,000 persons per site; this requires more staff-intensive operation and coverage through mobile teams for the smaller sites. A further consolidation of sites is expected which will require a flexible programmatic approach on the mainland. In view of the shift from a transit to a static refugee situation, more projects benefitting also the host communities need to be developed in order to ensure peaceful co-existence between the refugee and the local populations. Support to longer term integration should be planned for those who will be recognized refugees in Greece. On the islands, operational flexibility is also required in view of the highly volatile environment, in order to maintain life-saving humanitarian response, and at the same time continue building the capacity of the authorities. One of the main challenges at the islands is the limited reception capacity and the need to find urgently additional accommodation structures.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR provides protection and assistance activities directly and through **19 implementing partners** (international and national NGOs) including: Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA), International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Ecumenical Refugee Program (ERP), Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR), METAdrasi, Praksis, Tenet (Hellenic Theater/Drama & Education Network), Solidarity Now, Arsis, Iliaktida, Nostos, Médecins du Monde (MdM) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

- UNHCR has also **ongoing partnerships with the national and local authorities**, including the Greek Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, the Municipality of Athens and the Municipality of Thessaloniki. UNHCR will continue to provide support to national and local authorities with the aim at strengthening progressive the local capacity and ensure longer term sustainability to its interventions. In addition, UN agencies are starting to establish a stronger presence in Greece.

UNHCR Greece Partners 2016

Sector of Intervention	National NGOs	International NGOs	United Nations	Authorities
Protection	GRC, Praksis, METAdrasi, ERP, Arsis, Solidarity Now	ICMC, Mercy Corps, DRC	UNOPS	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction
Child Protection	METAdrasi, Praksis	Save the Children, DRC		
Communicating with Communities	GCR/GFR			
NFI/Shelter		Samaritan's Purse, DRC		
WASH		Samaritan's Purse, DRC, IRC		
Site Management Support		DRC		
Health		WAHA		
Education		Save the Children, DRC		
Public awareness	Tenet		UNOPS	
Relocation (accommodation)	Praksis, Nostos, Arsis, Solidarity Now, Iliaktida, MdM			Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the Greece operation

amount to some **USD 123.8 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – www.unhcr.org



