

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean

262,935

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,177

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 01 and 07 August, 682 refugees and migrants arrived on the Greek islands – an increase from the 562 who arrived the previous week. As of 07 August, 160,914 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea from Turkey to Greece, including 48% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq. So far in August, most arrivals have been to Chios and Samos.

In the same period, 5,933 refugees and migrants arrived by sea to Italy – a slight increase from the 5,626 that arrived the previous week. Most had departed from Libya, but others had come from Egypt, Turkey and Tunisia. As of 07 August, 99,545 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Italy in 2016, including 17% from Nigeria, 13% from Eritrea and 8% from Gambia. In 2016 UNHCR estimates that some 14,260 unaccompanied and separated children have arrived to Italy up until 07 August. These figures are based on arrivals registered with the Italian Ministry, making unaccompanied and separated children to account for 15% of all sea arrivals to Italy.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

UNHCR is committed to supporting the Government of Greece in the management of sites on the mainland and on the islands. While Greek authorities formally assume the overall responsibility for site management, UNHCR continues to strengthen initiatives to ensure that a comprehensive package of systematic support and capacity building is provided. From 02-03 August, UNHCR provided training to service providers from various organizations on site management, protection, and coordination response in Athens. These training sessions were adapted to cover the specific refugee scenarios in Greece in order to assert a common approach for operational international standards of quality and practices throughout the sites. Similar training sessions will continue across the country led by a UNHCR team comprised of experts

on site management and coordination, policy, and technical implementation methods will be aimed at enhancing capacity of staff, partners, and authorities. This is the first phase of UNHCR's support to the Government of Greece with regards to site management. Discussions and planning with relevant authorities is ongoing regarding further such site based activities. Humanitarian actors and government authorities have also recognized the need to strengthen referrals between the mainland and the islands, particularly for the allocation of accommodation and access to specialized services, in particular for people with specific needs, and assistance and efforts to this end are continuing.

During a visit to Amygdaleza detention centre and Attica Aliens Police Directorate in Petrou Ralli where 25 unaccompanied children are currently detained, the Secretary-General for First Reception, Odysseas Voudouris, [noted](#) that "zones for the protection of unaccompanied minors" inside the sites are being set-up by UNHCR in collaboration with child protection partners and authorities managing the sites. UNHCR is also supporting the Greek authorities in expanding the reception capacity for unaccompanied children on the islands and mainland, by establishing temporary and long term facilities. In the month of July, two new facilities have been opened in Athens area, through Nostos and Faros partners, in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children among others, for hosting a total of 40 unaccompanied children. Since mid-April, UNHCR provided 295 accommodation places for unaccompanied children on Lesbos, Samos and Kos islands, and in Athens and Thessaloniki areas in the mainland.

Taking into account, escalated tensions and rioting that has occurred in various reception sites across the country over the last months, the security and safety situation for people living and working at the sites is of concern to UNHCR. On 04 August, as reported by the media, eight national and international organizations (Danish Refugee

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to August 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 09 August 2016

Key Figures

Greece

682

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

01 August - 07 August

97

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

01 August - 07 August

Italy

5,933

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

01 August - 07 August

848

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

01 August - 07 August

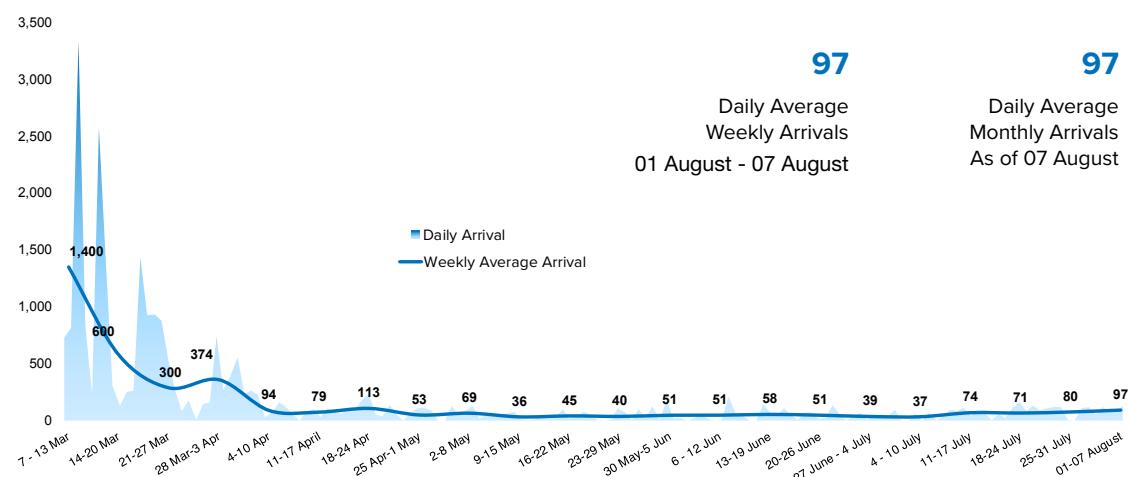
Council, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Save the Children, Solidarity - Solidarity Now, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Rescue Committee and Greek Forum of Refugees) sent a joint letter to Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Ioannis Mouzalas, asking for a meeting to discuss degrading living conditions at sites hosting refugees across the country. The letter described their observations on the lack of direct, proper and proportional response in tense situations and serious security incidents in the sites, urging the need for a leading role by the authorities for coordinated and clear security protocols. On 05 August, Mouzalas [welcomed](#) their letter and shared his willingness to meet with the organizations.

On 05 August, the Information Campaign initiated on 25 July on five islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros) was concluded. The campaign was coordinated by the

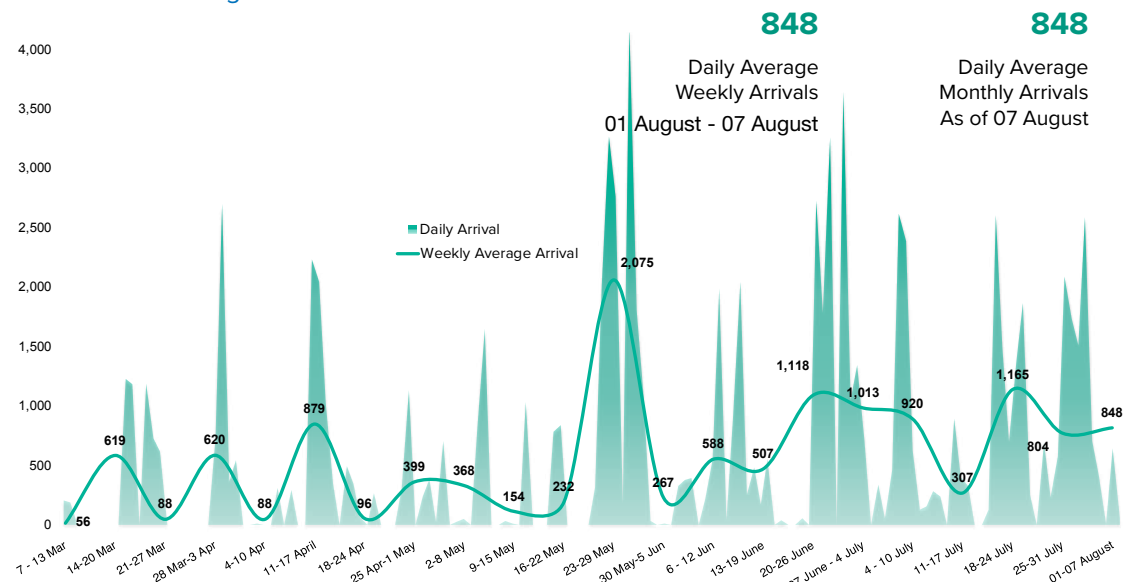
European Commission in cooperation with the Greek authorities (Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service, Hellenic Police, and the Ministry of Migration Policy) and EASO. UNHCR and IOM also participated in the exercise and provided information on asylum and assisted voluntary return respectively. The provision of information focused on the asylum and return/readmission procedures applies for post 20 March arrivals.

To celebrate the opening of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and as part of the Refugee Games organized in refugee sites around the world, approximately 80 refugee children between 6 and 10 years old had the chance to compete in athletic events on 05 August in the Kara Tepe site on Lesvos. The initiative was organized by UNHCR in collaboration with the Municipality of Lesvos and the Federation of Athletics Associations in Mytilene. The Refugee Games were opened by the Mayor of Lesvos

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 07 August 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 07 August 2016



and 2000 Olympic gold medallist Klelia Pantazi competed in several events with the children.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary border

The estimated number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia stood at 3,700. Those waiting to enter Hungary at the Serbia-Hungary border stabilised at around 1,100, with an average of 680 camping in the open on Serbian soil outside the two Hungarian transit zones. Among those waiting for admission, on average 39% were children, 38% men and 23% women with the majority Afghans (61%) and Syrians (27%). Attempts by the Serbian authorities to decongest the border sites by offering better conditions in governmental centres bore fruit. As a result, over 64% of aforementioned 3,700 persons were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 555 asylum-seekers in Asylum Centres and 1,836 refugees/migrants in Reception Centres/Refugee Aid Points (RAPs).

In Belgrade city centre, however, the situation remained challenging with the daily presence of up to 670 unregistered refugees and migrants mainly from Afghanistan and Pakistan among other nationalities. Conditions are difficult with many of them overnighing in Belgrade parks, other open spaces, or abandoned buildings. There is no shelter available in the parks and sanitation facilities are limited. Previously, people who had not applied for asylum were allowed to overnight in the Asylum Centre of Krnjaca, but since mid-July they would need to agree to apply for asylum in Serbia first. They are able to access food and NFI assistance from local and international NGOs. UNHCR and partners provide counselling regarding asylum procedures and profile vulnerable cases to CSW and other services. UNHCR funds medical services available daily in Belgrade parks.

Hungarian authorities continue to admit around 15 asy-

lump-sum seekers per day to each of the two transit zones. However, as families are prioritized by the Hungarian authorities, they continue admitting asylum-seekers into the transit zones based on the date of their arrival. The waiting period for families to gain admission now ranges between 26-35 days, 31-38 days for unaccompanied children while single men wait for between 38 and 70 days. More than 600 single men are currently waiting in Serbia for admission to Hungary, as authorities are admitting one single man per day on average.

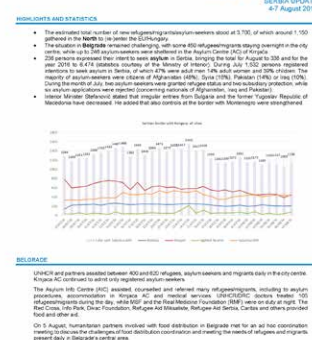
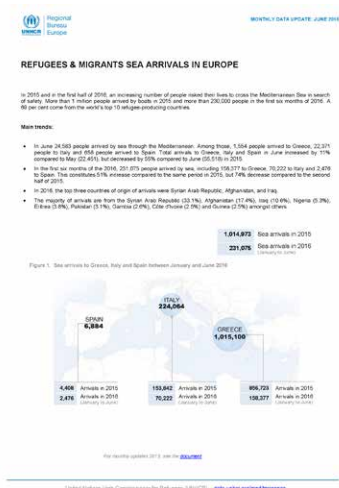
In light of the lengthy waiting periods, some attempts to cross the border irregularly were reported. Last week, Hungarian Police reported 94 apprehensions for irregular entry from Serbia, while border police prevented 664 people from irregularly crossing the border. A further 224 were intercepted inside Hungarian territory and escorted back to the Serbian side of the border control fence under new Hungarian legislation introduced last month.

Update on Relocation

As of 05 August, additional relocation places were pledged for Greece by Finland (150), Romania (127), Ireland (50) and Latvia (30) amounting to an additional 357 places. Romania has pledged a total of 772 relocation places, Finland 590, Ireland 180 and Latvia 159 so far. France (2,570), Romania (772) and Portugal (730) are the top EU Member States in terms of the number of relocation pledges for Greece. Overall, the total number of pledges remains low at 7,463 - only 11% of the total target of 66,400 to be relocated from Greece to other EU Member States by September 2017.

From Italy, nine persons were transferred to Slovenia during the week, bringing the overall number of relocations to 961.

Key Documents from the Portal



NORTH

Some 1,158 asylum seekers were present at the end of the reporting period at the border with Hungary. Of these 443 were in Hungary and 209 in Kassa - predominantly women and children (82%) from Afghanistan and Syria - waiting for long periods of time in difficult conditions and hot temperatures on Serbian soil in front of the Hungarian

Most elements are being provided by the Ministry of Interior. All other information is based on findings of UNHCR staff and partners. Where available, statistics are provided by UNHCR. For more information, visit www.unhcr.org. Statistics are from December 2014. All rights reserved. ©2015 UNHCR. All rights reserved.

Timeline Overview

Highlights

