

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
339,980

arrivals by sea in 2016*

4,271

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

During the week of 31 October to 06 November, 570 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece from Turkey – an increase from the 398 who crossed the previous week. The average number of daily arrivals also increased slightly from 57 the previous week to 81 during the reporting period- with the majority arriving to Lesbos. As of 06 November, 170,211 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece – main countries of origin of those who arrived to Greece remain the Syrian Arab Republic (47%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (15%). Of these, 42% were men, 21% women and 37% children.

In the Central Mediterranean, 2,362 persons (including approximately 145 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived to Italy by sea during the week of 31 October. As of 06 November 2016, 161,672 persons arrived by sea to Italy, compared to 140,987 persons disembarked at the end of October 2015 and 144,205 persons disembarked at the end of November 2015. UNHCR is monitoring factors impacting this recent increase compared to sea arrivals in 2015. According to data provided by the Ministry of Interior as of 31 October 2016, 22,772 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have arrived to Italy by sea this year compared to 10,820 that disembarked as of 31 October 2015. The top countries of origin among arrivals include Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia, and Sudan.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

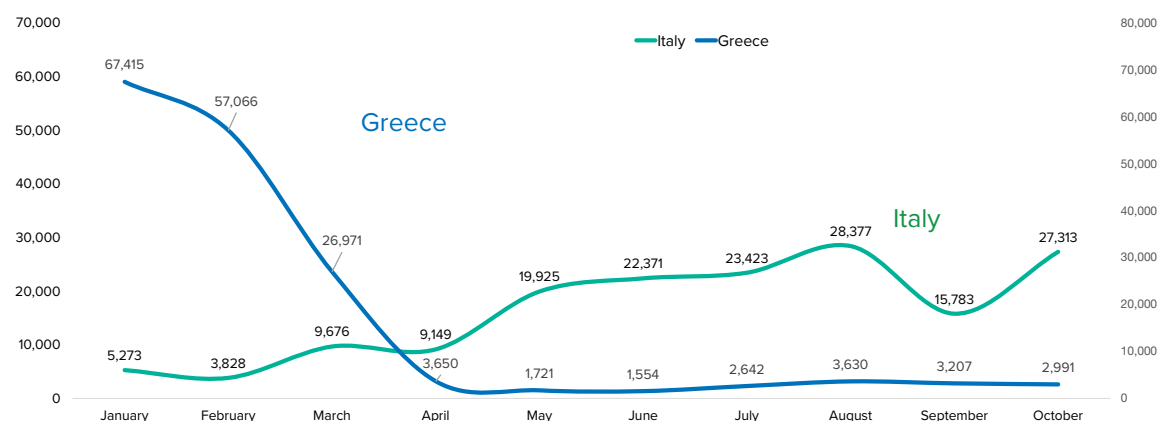
Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the islands continue to face serious challenges with capacity and adequate shelter allocation for new arrivals, including in Moria RIC which has surpassed maximum capacity. On Samos, 45 asylum-seekers with specific needs were

referred to UNHCR's accommodation scheme on the mainland and transferred from the islands to the mainland on 03 November. No transfers under the Greek authorities (KEPOM) mechanism took place this week, primarily due to the fact that there was a limited number of eligible people with the required documentation to travel to the mainland. Steps towards alleviating tensions on the islands is still needed to improve conditions for people, such steps include progress in areas concerning protection and security, acceleration of transfers to the mainland and improvement of adequate shelter and sanitation within all sites. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support and assistance to the Government including in areas such as information provision, asylum counselling, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, improving and winterizing accommodation facilities, provision of non-food items and site management support.

At the Inter-Agency Meeting organized by UNHCR on 31 October, the Director of Greece's Asylum Service, Maria Stavropoulou, presented Statistical Data of the Greek Asylum Service on asylum applications as of 31 October 2016. Following the pre-registration exercise on the mainland which concluded on 25 July, up to 35,000 asylum applications have been fully lodged by the end of October in Greece. As of 23 October, the police have recorded 18,228 expressions of interest to apply for asylum on the islands.

On the mainland, an accidental fire broke out at Oreokastro site in Northern Greece on 02 November, where a woman and her two children were injured. The fire was caused by an unauthorized electrical wire installed by residents. One child is being cared for at the only intensive care ward for children at the Papanikolaou hospital,

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 31 October 2016



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

Key Figures

Greece

570

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

31 October - 06 November

81

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

31 October - 06 November

Italy

2,362

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

31 October - 06 November

337

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

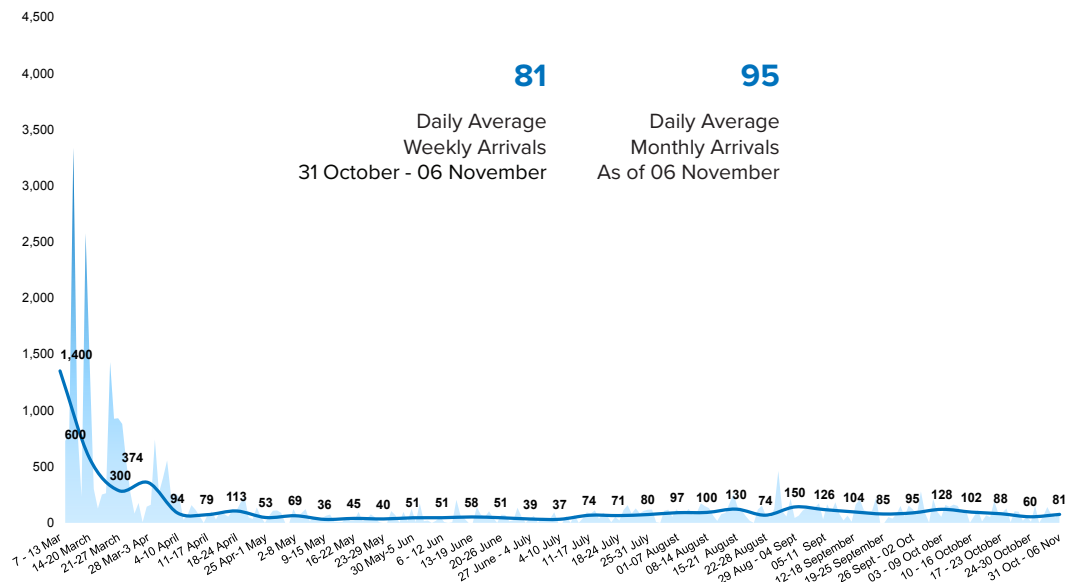
31 October - 06 November

the second child is in Ippokrateio hospital with minor injuries, while the mother was released with no serious injuries. UNHCR has offered support to the family including providing transportation and accommodation. This incident highlights the need for controlled fire safety measures and precautionary information sessions at all sites. In response to the car accident reported last month near Oreokastro site where asylum-seekers were hit by a passing vehicle - the local road and transport authority installed a zebra crossing and sign in front of the site. Following recent security incidents in Northern Greece, UNHCR is improving the collaboration

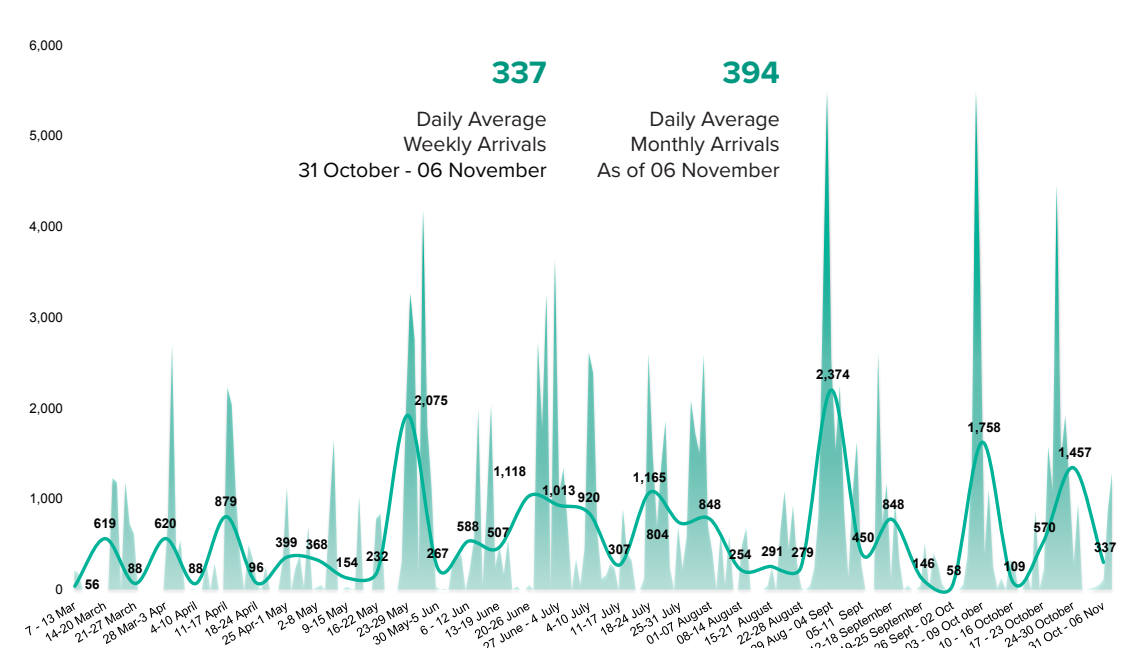
with the police by providing security recommendations through UNHCR Field Safety Advisors and implementation of traffic safety programs in sites.

The accommodation project in support of the relocation program funded by the European Union established 2,696 places during the reporting period and 3,982 places in the month of October, reaching 17,018 places (85% of the targeted 20,000) by the end of the month. This progress is the largest weekly achievement since the beginning of the project in January. Over 16,000 persons have benefitted from the program since November 2015.

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 06 November 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 06 November 2016



UNHCR continues to offer support to the authorities in establishing safe spaces for UASC in accommodation sites in order to address and secure urgent safety and protection needs for UASC, while ensuring that care is available alternatively from detention centres. Between May and end of October 2016, UNHCR has made available over 600 places in shelter for UASC and is currently funding 55% of the available places in shelters for UASC (622 out of 1,140 places).

With the weather worsening and winter close-at-hand, there is still an urgent need for authorities to equip all sites with adequate facilities to ensure the wellbeing and safety of asylum-seekers. UNHCR and humanitarian organizations continue to offer support to the local authorities in preparation for winter. [The replacement of tents with some 1,000 residential containers](#) on eight official sites with funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), and rehousing people with specific needs, such as those with serious health problems was carried out by UNHCR. Additionally, UNHCR is also delivering up to 200,000 winter items such as winter clothes, sleeping bags and thermal blankets to 38,000 asylum-seekers on sites in the Greek mainland and the islands. Fifteen sites have been assigned to UNHCR by the Ministry of Migration Policy for infrastructure improvements, such as installing heating. This is part of humanitarian efforts to support the government in preparing over 40 government-run sites for winter.

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

On 03 November, four Pakistani nationals were returned from Lesbos Island to Dikili, Izmir. All four were returned within the scope of the EU-Turkey Statement after being issued negative decisions on their asylum claims follow-

ing the rejection of their appeals.

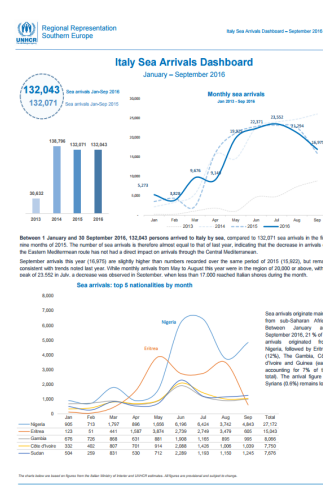
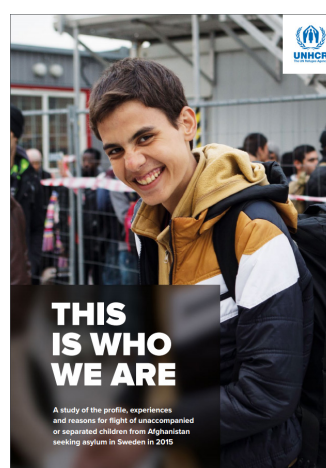
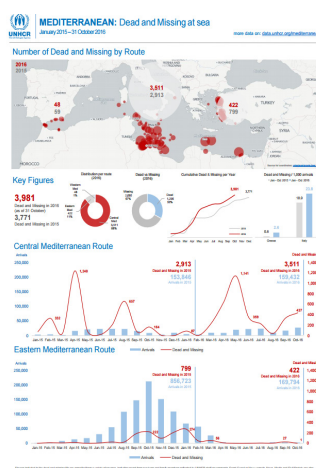
The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece under the EU-Turkey Statement is 721 as of 06 November. However, authorities have yet to confirm the scope of the last two return operations which took place on 27 October and 03 November.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

Some 6,200 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants are estimated to be in Serbia, with 77% accommodated in government facilities and the rest staying overnight in Belgrade city centre or at the Hungarian border. While a slight decrease in the number of refugees and migrants present during the day was observed, over 1,000 slept rough in the centre of Belgrade City. Most were from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and Iraq. In response to the cold weather, UNHCR partners distributed over 200 blankets, 400 pieces of footwear, 330 winter jackets and many other clothing items for women, men and children to refugees in Belgrade, the North, West and South of Serbia. At the border with Hungary, in the areas outside the transit zones where weather conditions continue to be harsh, some 200 people waited for admission to Hungary staying in makeshift tents and relying on assistance provided by UNHCR, partners, NGOs, government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary. Among those, on average 36% were children, 45% men and 19% women with the majority from Syria (32%), Afghanistan and Iraq (28% each). UNHCR and partners continued providing protection assistance, legal counselling on asylum in Serbia, and support for coordination between authorities and humanitarian agencies.

As of 02 November the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN) in Hungary follows the general office

Key Documents from the Portal



hours in the transit zones (8:00 – 16:30) on weekdays and no admissions take place during weekends. The daily admission rate was subsequently reduced to 10 people per day per transit zone as of 02 November, further reducing weekly admissions from an average 210 to 100. UNHCR observed that only the police, the military medical team and a social worker were present in the transit zones during the weekend (the distribution of food packages in the waiting areas remained unchanged). As a result, the total number of asylum-seekers admitted to the transit zones during the reporting week decreased to 117 people entering Hungary through the transit zones in comparison to recent weeks (200-210 per week). The border police, the military, OIN, the Constitution Protection Office (CPO), the Government's Office (providing legal information) and UNHCR all maintain presence inside the transit zones. UNHCR provides asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations in relation to the border and Dublin procedures and the implications of the safe third country notion.

[Update on Relocations](#)

From Italy, 60 persons were relocated to the Netherlands on 03 November, bringing the total relocated from Italy since the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,549 persons (3.9% of the 39,600 target, [latest EC data, 07 November](#)).

From Greece, there were 164 asylum-seekers relocated during the week. Thus far, a total of 5783 (8%) asylum-seekers against the targeted 66,400, have been relocated from Greece to other EU countries since the beginning of the relocation programme in November

2015. A total of 11,065 pledges since the EU relocation scheme began in September 2015 have been made by EU Member States, including those made by Finland which pledged 150 places during the reporting period, making for a total of 740 pledges made by Finland.

[Transfer of Residents out of Calais "Jungle" site and its Closure](#)

The informal camp for refugees and migrants in Calais known as "the Jungle" which began evacuation on 24 October officially closed on 03 November. [UNHCR has long recommended its closure](#) and welcomes its replacement by proper accommodation for asylum-seekers and migrants. No serious incidents were reported and UNHCR was present throughout, providing information on reception facilities, Centre D'Accueil et Orientation (CAO), and helping to identify people with specific needs, including UASC. The authorities have provided transportation for all children to different sites known as Centre D'Accueil et Orientation Pour Mineurs Isoles (CAOMI) in France with the presence of Home Office staff and interpreters, first aid and France Terre d'Asile Service (FTDA) staff. In the coming days, it is expected that they will be interviewed in order to determine their best interests. In such an environment, it should be possible to determine the best solution for each individual child and to ensure that their best interests and safety are given primary consideration. During the evacuation, UNHCR had a child protection expert, protection and field staff with relevant language skills on the ground who supported the authorities. UNHCR continues to monitor the conditions in the CAO, particularly the CAOMI for UASC and is ready to further support the authorities.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

