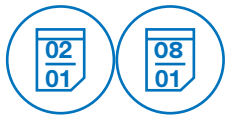


Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
1,165

arrivals by sea in 2017*

11

dead/missing in 2017*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Last week, 382 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by sea from Turkey, a small increase from the 373 that arrived the previous week. Most arrivals took place on Lesbos, Samos, and Chios. So far 393 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea to Greece in 2017.

In Italy, 728 refugees and migrants arrived by sea last week but no arrivals were recorded between Thursday and Sunday. Most arrivals departed from Libya but three groups also arrived from Algeria (46 Algerians), Tunisia (three Tunisians), and Greece (56 Iraqis, Pakistanis and Iranians). A group rescued by the NGO SOS Méditerranée and disembarked on 04 January reported that three men from Guinea, The Gambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo were missing and thought drowned, two of them after being swept off the inflatable raft by high waves at night and one while attempting to rescue his friend.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

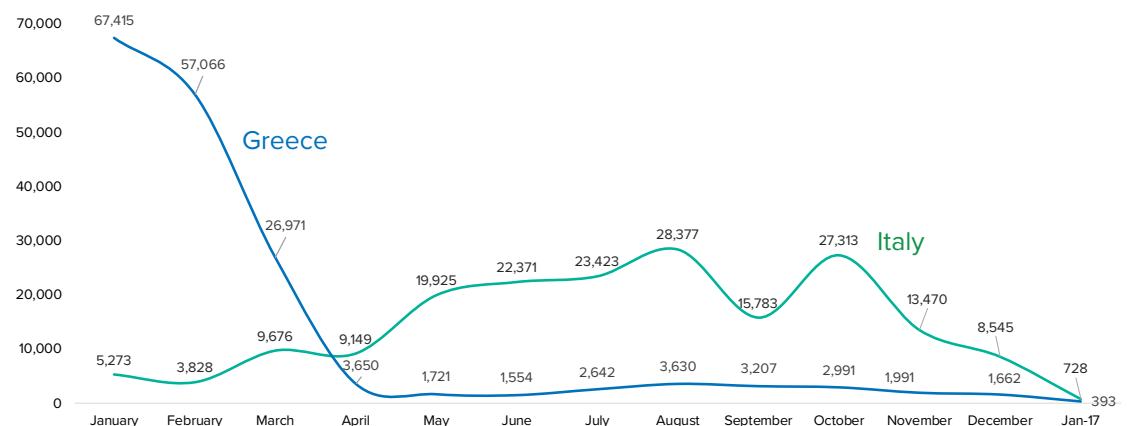
A wave of cold weather gripped Greece from last Thursday onwards, bringing freezing temperatures and fresh snow to many parts of the country, including the Aegean islands. UNHCR intervened both on the mainland and on the island sites with many complementary actions to counter the effects of winter. In northern Greece, electricity has been installed in Alexandria and kerosene heaters have been refuelled by Samaritan's Purse in Nea Kavala. In Thermopiles, electrical radiators have been installed and UNHCR has delivered two generators. Following the

Greek government's agreement to vacate the five unsuitable sites in the Thessaloniki area, UNHCR is coordinating the evacuation effort in close cooperation with the Ministry of Migration Policy and transferring vulnerable persons to hotels, apartments, as well as to other sites suitable for winter.

On the islands, heavy snow exacerbated already overcrowded and sub-standard conditions. On Friday, UNHCR issued a [public call](#) to speed up the process of transferring people from the islands to the mainland given very poor conditions at many island sites. In Moria, Samaritan's Purse fuelled a blow heater for one rubbish hall and another rubbish hall was installed by UNHCR, Movement on the Ground, Samaritan's Purse and Eurorelief after authorization from the site authorities. Families are also hosted inside the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) area in Moria and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in heated containers, in separate wings. Winterization kits have been installed in inner tents inside the UNHCR family tents.

On Chios, work with partners is continuing with UNHCR providing more relief items and installing electric heaters. In all sites including hotels and apartments, UNHCR, through its partner Samaritan's Purse, has distributed winter non-food items and clothing. In Vial, a kiosk-style distribution point has been set up and distributions are ongoing including for new arrivals. UNHCR distributed additional blankets and sleeping bags to the approximately 350 people in tents on the island in preparation for the cold over the coming weekend. UNHCR also sent 45 winterization kits and 100 plastic tarpaulins to Souda as an additional measure. On Lesbos, Chios, and Samos,

Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January 2016 to 8 January 2017



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 13 January 2017

Key Figures

Greece

259

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands

2 - 8 January 2017

37

Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands

2 - 8 January 2017

Italy

728

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy

2 - 8 January 2017

104

Daily Average Arrivals to Italy

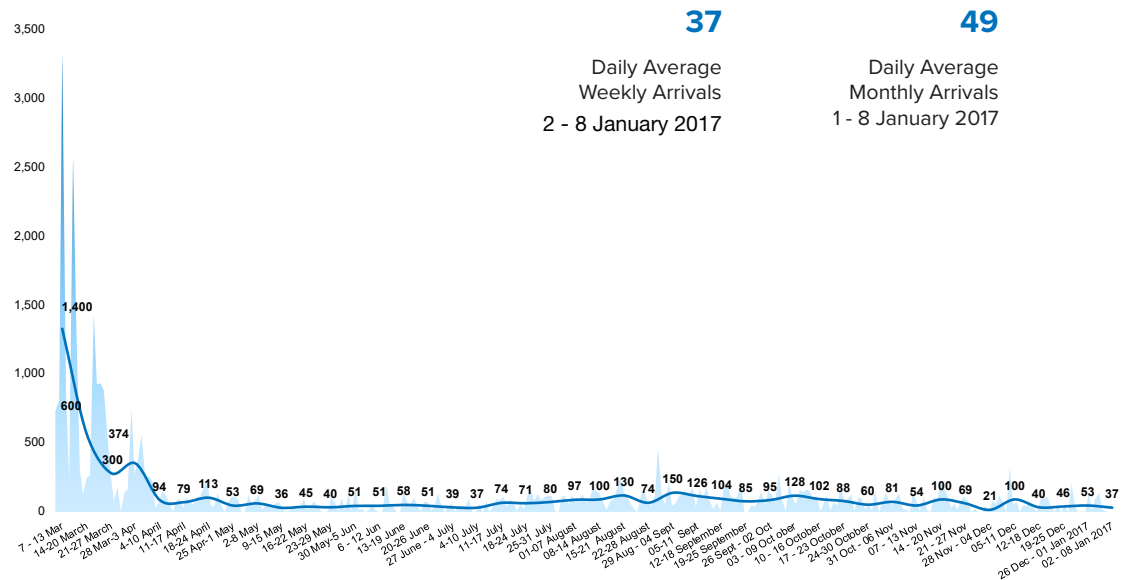
2 - 8 January 2017

there has been opposition from the Hoteliers Association and tour operators to UNHCR's practice of renting rooms for refugees.

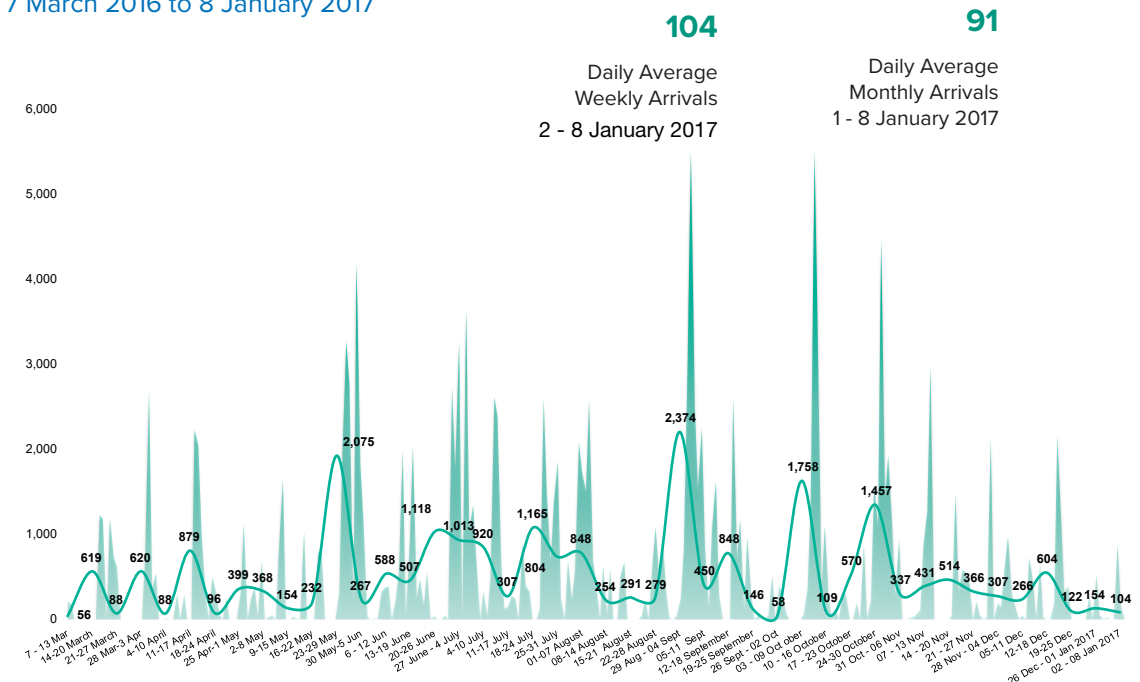
In northern Greece, progress was recorded in the cash programme with IFRC starting cash distribution on 05 January in Nea Kavala. IFRC is arranging to meet with all actors at the site, conduct community information sessions, stakeholders' meetings and then start registering persons for assistance the following week.

The severe winter weather claimed another life at the land border with Turkey last week, an area where many others have died in past winters. On 03 January, the body of a 20-year-old Afghan man was found in a field near Didimoteicho after police were alerted by another Afghan man who travelled with the deceased. It is believed he died of hypothermia after overnight temperatures plunged to -14°C. The surviving Afghan national was transferred to the Pre-Removal Centre of Fylakio pending his transfer to the Fylakio RIC. There have been delays in transfers of new arrivals in the Evros region

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 March 2016 to 8 January 2017



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 7 March 2016 to 8 January 2017



from detention in police facilities to the RIC due to the low capacity of the RIC as well as the slow process of transferring those in the RIC who have completed initial procedures to open accommodation sites on the mainland. This is resulting in some spending prolonged periods of up to two months in detention in poor conditions in various police stations. UNHCR is seeking relevant solutions with the Ministry of Migration Policy and the police to ameliorate the situation.

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

There were no returns from Greece to Turkey this week.

Situation in Serbia

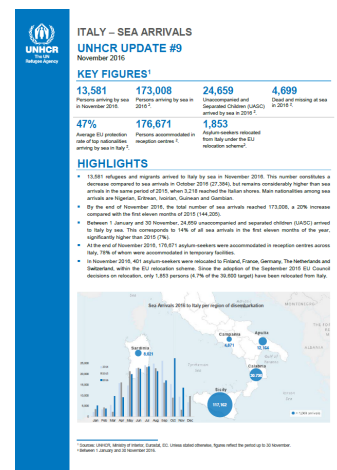
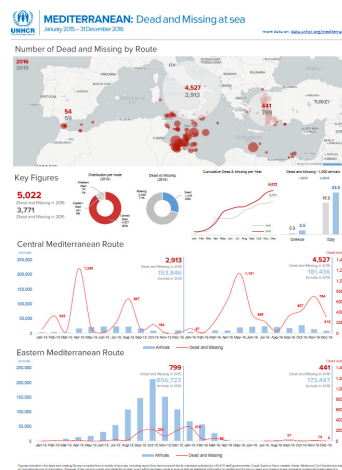
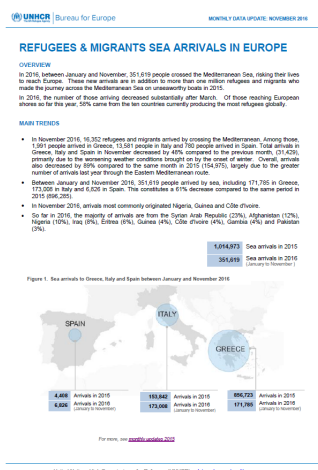
The number of new refugees and migrants in the country rose to 7,200 as the harsh winter weather encouraged more people to seek shelter. Almost 82% were in 16 government shelters resulting in many centres exceeding their capacities while the rest slept rough in Belgrade city centre or near the border with Hungary despite temperatures falling to -20°C at times. Given the risk to people sleeping outside in such weather, Serbian authorities invited all those registered to move to government centres. In Belgrade, UNHCR and partners intensified support for registration and counseling and provided transport to 145 registered asylum-seekers to the designated centres. Additionally, UNHCR and partners, in coordination with the authorities, provided stoves, additional blankets, and winter clothes to those who opted to stay at two informal sites and reiterated their offer to assist authorities in the provision of additional emergency shelter places.

So far this year, 163 people have lodged intentions to seek asylum in Serbia. In 2016, 12,961 people lodged their intention with Serbian authorities to seek asylum in the country. In 2016, the Asylum office issued 82 first instance decisions, granting 23 persons subsidiary protection, 19 refugee status while rejecting the applications of 40 asylum-seekers.

Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

Last week, 100 people stayed in makeshift tents outside the two 'transit zones' relying on assistance provided by government authorities and humanitarian actors from both Serbia and Hungary. At the start of the week, nine families approached the waiting area outside the 'transit zone' near Horgos despite the freezing weather predicted. Due to the harsh weather conditions, the Serbian authorities reiterated their offer to accommodate all asylum-seekers from the waiting areas of both 'transit zones' at the Subotica Transit Centre (TC), and IOM facilitated the transportation of 52 asylum-seekers (including all women and children) who agreed to move while 17 men (members of the families and community leaders) decided to stay in Horgos/Röszke to look after their tents and await admission the following week. At Kelebija, by the end of the week 83 people were present in the waiting area, the vast majority of them were North African single men not registered with Serbian authorities. UNHCR Hungary requested Hungary's Immigration and Asylum Office (formerly known as the Office of Immigration and Nationality) at Röszke to provide an admission plan for the following week to those at the 'transit zone' so that families could make a well-informed decision about where to wait for the next few days.

Key Documents from the Portal



Sign up for the Latest Information Products.

Ultimately, 95 asylum-seekers were granted entry to Hungary last week via the two 'transit zones'. Families admitted this week reported waiting between five and eight months in Serbia for their turn while single men and UASCs reported waiting up to seven months. In addition, Hungarian Police reported that 207 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence and another 227 were prevented from crossing the border irregularly.

More Winter-Related Deaths in southeast Europe

The severe winter weather across the region also resulted in three more deaths of refugees and migrants at Europe's borders last week in addition to the Afghan man found dead at Greece's border with Turkey. On 02 January, the body of a young Somali woman was found in the southeast of Bulgaria, a day after a group apprehended by Bulgarian authorities nearby had reported her missing. Two other Somali teenagers from the group were hospitalized with frozen limbs. In the same region, the bodies of two Iraqi men aged 28 and 35 were found in the Strandzha mountains on 06 January. They too are believed to have died of hypothermia. Bulgarian authorities have since issued instructions for additional patrols of the area to prevent further fatalities due to the weather. In the former Yu-

goslav Republic of Macedonia where temperatures plummeted to -28°C, Red Cross mobile teams in the north of the country rescued four refugees and migrants caught outside in the freezing weather. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonian authorities have made transitional shelter at Tabanovce Transit Centre temporarily available for those caught outside during the winter weather.

Update on Relocation

A total of 79 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week to Norway (25), Estonia (21), Portugal (20) and Lithuania (13). A total of 7,760 relocation candidates have already left or are scheduled to leave for another EU Member State by the end of February 2017. There were no new relocation pledges last week. In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted a further 205 relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and another 238 received transportation services last week.

There were no asylum-seekers relocated from Italy last week, thus the total number of relocations from Italy remains 2,654 (7% of the 39,600 target).

Timeline Overview

Highlights

