

## Weekly Report

### Trends of Sea Arrivals



### Key Figures

**Mediterranean**  
**3,899**

arrivals by sea in 2017\*

**230**

dead/missing in 2017\*

Last week, 251 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece from Turkey – a slight decrease from the 305 who crossed the previous week. The number of arrivals to the Aegean islands fluctuated from 0 (17/01) to 72 (19/01) during the reporting period. Chios recorded the majority of estimated sea arrivals (100), followed by Kastelorizo (61). Comparing with the previous week the average number of daily arrivals decreased from 44 to 36.

Meanwhile in Italy, 38 refugees and migrants arrived by sea – a significant drop in the number of arrivals from the 1,625 who arrived the previous week. During the week, there were no recoded arrivals between Tuesday and Sunday. In January 2017 so far, 2,391 persons arrived by sea, compared to 2,486 arriving by 24 January 2016.

As of 22 January, there have been reports of 230 persons dead or missing persons at sea in 2017. Majority of these incidents (87%) have occurred along the central Mediterranean Sea route.

### Key Developments

#### Situation in Greece

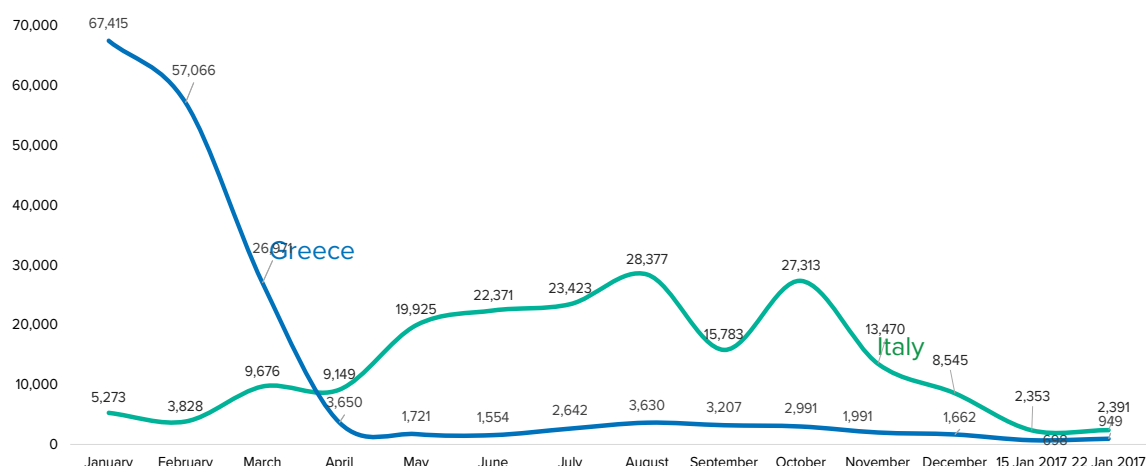
As severe winter weather and freezing conditions continue to affect refugees and migrants across Europe, heavy snow storms have intensified challenges for people throughout Greece, particularly those on the Aegean islands. In view of this, efforts continued with the instal-

lations of prefab houses and heaters and distribution of winter clothes and footwear, especially on Samos and Lesbos, where the conditions were particularly challenging due to overcrowded sites. On Samos, UNHCR has assisted in the transfer of almost 700 persons to UNHCR accommodations on the mainland since October, majority of whom are vulnerable asylum-seekers. Additionally, to support those remaining in Samos UNHCR installed nine portable air conditioners (donated by IRC), which gave heating to 250 persons in unheated dormitories and two hot-air blowers for the outdoor police registration area.

On the islands, refugees and migrants continue to try by all means to heat themselves inside tents and dormitories due to dropping temperatures. This is creating fire hazards amidst overcrowded situations at sites such as Vathy RIC in Samos. In addition to poor living conditions due to harsh weather, protection and security gaps remain of concern, particularly for those with specific needs including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). UNHCR continues to carry out weekly focus group discussions on SGBV and cultural awareness, targeting women, girls, boys and men.

In the framework of its initiatives to alleviate crowding on the islands from 01 June 2016 until 20 January 2017 UNHCR transferred 4,325 people, 716 were supported

### Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January 2016 to 22 January 2017



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 22 January 2017

## Key Figures

## Greece

**251**  
 Total Weekly  
 Arrivals to  
 Greek Islands

16 - 22 January 2017

**36**  
 Daily Average  
 Arrivals to  
 Greek Islands

16 - 22 January 2017

## Italy

**38**  
 Total Weekly  
 Arrivals to Italy

16 - 22 January 2017

**5**  
 Daily Average  
 Arrivals to Italy

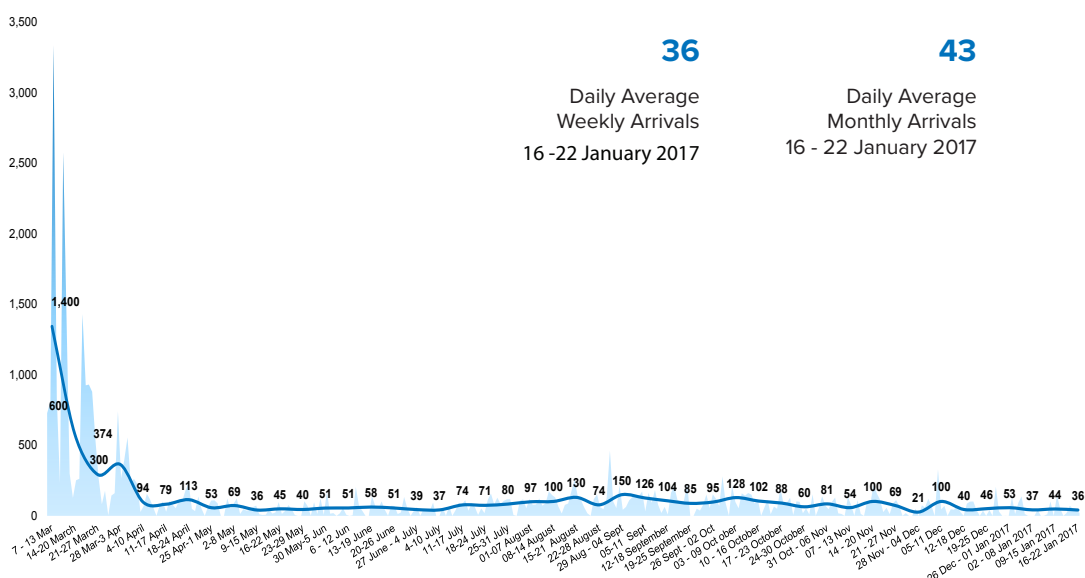
16 - 22 January 2017

in coordination with KEPOM (Central Coordinating Organization for Migration) and 1,836 were accommodated in Athens under the relocation/accommodation scheme. In addition to that UNHCR provided 1,773 ferry tickets for transportation. From Lesbos UNHCR has assisted in transferring 525 asylum-seekers to the mainland since September 2016.

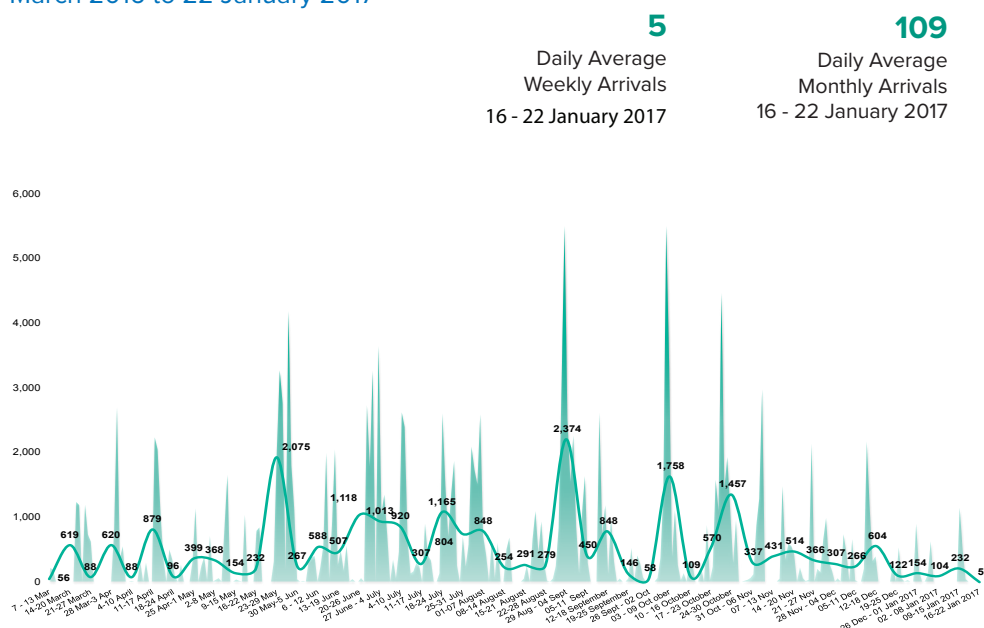
On the mainland, UNHCR has installed 819 prefab units as of 19 January and continues to procure more. Of the 15 sites assigned by Greek authorities to UNHCR for winterization,<sup>1</sup> UNHCR has completed the original plan

for winter interventions in 15 sites and fully evacuated those in another 5 sites to alternative accommodation. Nonetheless, sites have still suffered damages caused by recent harsh weather, including to WASH and other technical facilities in several sites, particularly in Northern Greece. To address this, UNHCR focused its efforts to evacuate the warehouse sites on Vasilika/Raidestos, given the harsh temperatures. Some 80 people were transferred from the site to hotels, while the remaining residents are awaiting transfer. In Nea Kavala, due to works that the public water company is conducting, the water provision is temporarily limited. Residents are us-

### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 March 2016 to 22 January 2017



### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 7 March 2016 to 22 January 2017



<sup>1</sup> Lagadikia, Nea Kavala, Alexandria, Vasilika/Redestos and Pieria (Petra Olympou) in northern Greece; Katsikas, Filiplada and Agia Eleni (new site) in western Greece; Kipselochori and Styliada (new site) in central Greece; Schisto, Eleonas, Elefsina, Rafina and Andravidas in Attica and Peloponnese. <sup>2</sup> Thermopiles, Trikala, Tsepelovo, Diavata, Kara Tepe and Moria.

ing the chemical toilets provided by UNHCR, but also open air spots, which raises hygiene concerns. Samaritan's Purse (SP), UNHCR's partner, is looking into bringing water trucks to refill the tanks in the site as a temporary measure. UNHCR continues to offer its support to authorities in identifying more sustainable solutions.

In Evros, near the border with Turkey, Greek authorities confirmed the second death of an individual on 15 January due to adverse weather conditions. This is the second incident of this kind to occur in the same region during the last two weeks. According to medical officials the man aged between 20 and 25 years-old suffered from hypothermia. Meanwhile, capacity at the Registration and Identification Centre (RIC) in Evros is strained as slow procedures regarding the transfer of new detainees from the police station to RIC are still continuing. During a monitoring visit, UNHCR has identified those with specific needs and provided individual counselling on registration and identification procedures. Families and those with vulnerabilities were referred and prioritized to be transferred to the RIC from the police station. UNHCR has issued letters to relevant authorities highlighting the delays which result in unjustified detention and concerns around detention conditions, among others.

The Accommodation for Relocation project by UNHCR in support of the Greek government, funded by the European Union is providing accommodation to some 9,500 relocation candidates and 6,000 vulnerable asylum-seekers as of 20 January. Currently there are 19,294 places established for the purpose of accommodation for relocation and vulnerable asylum-seekers.

## Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

No return operations took place during the week.

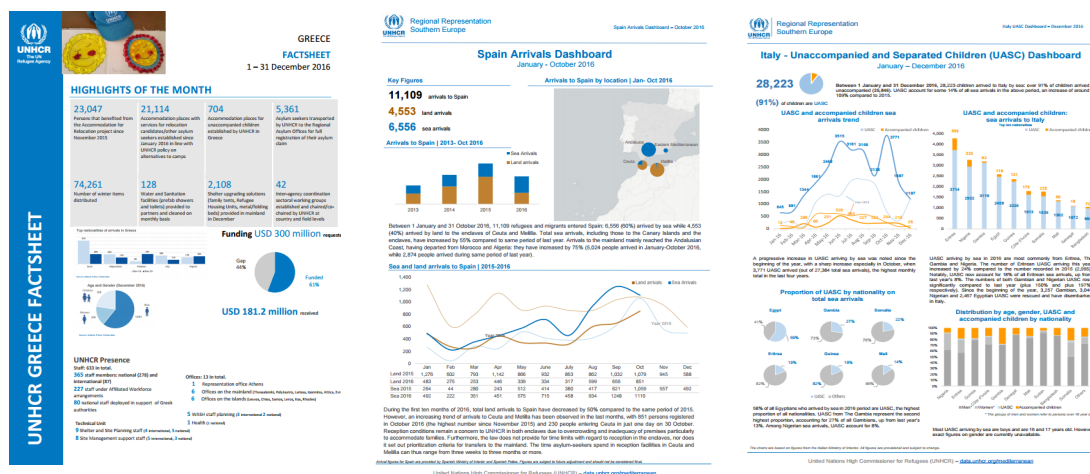
The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece under the EU-Turkey Statement since March 2016 is 838 as of 17 January 2017.

## Situation in Serbia

With more refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants seeking shelter and registration amidst harsh winter-weather the overall number of those in Serbia was 7,300. Among which, 85% are accommodated in 17 heated governmental shelters. However, an estimated 1,000 refugees and migrants are still sleeping rough in Belgrade's city centre, including some who want to stay put despite efforts made by authorities, UNHCR and partners explaining their right to be accommodated in government shelters. UNHCR has also worked hard to identify unaccompanied children.

The authorities, supported by UNHCR and partners, arranged an additional temporary emergency shelter by refurbishing a facility in Obrenovac near Belgrade, for the voluntary relocation of homeless refugees and migrants from Belgrade city centre. In support of the authorities' efforts to put the facility into use as quickly as possible, UNHCR swiftly contributed all new clothing, blankets, bed sets and hygiene kits, cleaning services, 22 chemical toilets, two water heaters, water taps, 12 toilet water tanks and other items. On 17 January, authorities transferred 225 refugees and migrants (including 120 boys) from the Belgrade city centre to the new facility. UNHCR and partners continue working to establish further expansion of shelter capacities there and to ensure that all

### Key Documents from the Web portal



necessary protection and other services, particularly to support UASCs, will be provided to all current and future residents of the new Obrenovac facility. While continuing support to authorities' efforts in voluntary relocation from the Belgrade city centre, UNHCR and partners transported 81 more refugees and migrants, including some 40 boys, to several government centres with available capacity. At the same time, efforts are ongoing to identify remaining needs in the city centre.

UNHCR and partners continue to provide assistance with food and non-food items, medical services, psychosocial and asylum counselling, interpretation, referrals and recreational activities. Community leaders are also encouraged to engage in various every day responsibilities ensuring community participation in the management of reception centres. Upon the request of authorities, UNHCR and partners continued to support the Centre for Social Work in conducting Best Interest Assessments for UASCs.

The number of lodged intentions to seek asylum in Serbia in January 2017 so far is 432.

#### Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

During the week, Hungarian officials continued to admit up to 20 persons per day via the two 'transit zones' (10 in each transit zone), resulting in 101 people (mostly Afghans and Syrians) being granted access during the week to seek asylum in Hungary. With some 140 asylum-seekers awaiting admission staying at Subotica Transit Centre, fewer asylum-seekers camped outdoors at the border sites, with 22 in total (14 at Horgos and 8 at Kelebije) awaiting admission to Hungary. The waiting period for families to access the transit zones ranges from four to six months, while single men can wait up to seven months.

On 23 January the Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO) staff confirmed that more extensive security screening interviews will be conducted with people entering the transit zones, hence the number admitted is expected to be further reduced to around 5 people per day in each transit zone.

In light of extensive waiting periods, many continue to attempt to cross into Hungary irregularly. Last week, the Hungarian police reported 19 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 417 people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 417 people were intercepted inside Hungary and sent back to the other side of the border control fence.

During the reporting period nine asylum-seekers were returned to Serbia from the transit zones after the court rejected their appeals (3 Afghans, 4 Pakistanis, and 2 Palestinian). Anxiety and uncertainty prevails among

the 43 single men held in the transit zones due to the increased number of returns this week, heightened by the restriction of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee's access to provide legal aid. UNHCR observed that IAO at Röszke started to advise asylum-seekers to use a short and standardized form, prepared by IAO, to appeal the inadmissibility decisions. The document is written in Dari and Hungarian and states that the person concerned disagrees with the rejection decision and appeals to the court so it does not allow the individual concerned to provide detailed information to the safe third country ground for rejection of their asylum application.

The border police, the military, IAO, the Constitution Protection Office (CPO), and the Government's Office (providing legal information) maintains presence inside the transit zones. UNHCR Hungary has been conducting daily visits to the transit zones and providing asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, Dublin procedures and on the implications of the safe third country notion.

#### Update on Relocation

A total of 182 asylum-seekers were relocated from Italy to Norway (179) Romania (2) and Latvia (1). As of 23 January, a total of 2,917 persons (7.4% of the 39,600 initial target) have been relocated from Italy to other European states. No UASC have been relocated from Italy yet. ([lat-est EC data, 23 January](#)).

A total of 172 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week, to Ireland (1), Latvia (29), Liechtenstein (10), Lithuania (15), Portugal (61) and Spain (56). As of 23 January, 7,619 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece since the beginning of the program, representing just 11% of the initial target of 66,400 persons foreseen. There were 80 new pledges from Ireland during the reporting period. In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted 272 relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and 233 received transportation services last week.

#### EU Related Developments

On 18 January, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) held a debate on "Emergency Aid for refugees and migrants facing severe weather conditions in European camps". They [urged](#) EU and national authorities to provide emergency aid to help refugees and migrants to cope with the severe weather conditions in several parts of Europe, and called on Member States fulfil their commitments as part of the relocation scheme. They were also [presented](#) with the priorities of the Maltese Presidency by Malta's Prime Minister, who stressed the need for "convincing replies to be provided on migration".

## Timeline Overview

### Highlights

