



**Arrivals and Departures:** As of 28 January, more than 50,000 people have arrived to Greek shores this year. Despite the number of arrivals to the Greek shores slightly increasing, no significant change was observed. Due to the ongoing ferry strike, departures from the islands to the mainland were delayed as compared to the regular schedule leading to over 7,000 people remaining on the islands.

**Situation at Borders:** The border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continued to open and close intermittently, allowing 50 people to cross at any one time.

**Condition of People:** [UNHCR is extremely alarmed at reports](#) of the discovery of two dead bodies on the Bulgarian border with Serbia last week. UNHCR

is seeking further details after being alerted about the deaths by the Bulgarian Border Police. The two men, apparently, have died of exposure while trying to cross into Serbia from Western Bulgaria. "These recent tragic incidents once again highlight the risks that desperate people are forced to take in absence of legal avenues to seek safety in Europe," said Montserrat Feixas Vihé, UNHCR's Regional Representative for Central Europe.

On the Greek Islands, due to the two day extension of the ferry strike, the capacity of registration and accommodation facilities will be overstretched over the coming days.

**Deaths at Sea:** On Samos, 26 people lost their lives including 10 children as their boat sank while attempting to reach the island.



### Critical Developments

According to German Economy Minister, Sigmar Gabriel, as part of 'Asylum Package II, Germany intends to add Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to its list of 'safe' countries. Consequently, asylum applications from nationals of these countries could be more rapidly assessed. Further measures were agreed by the coalition parties including restrictions on family reunification procedures.

According to President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, the Netherlands' plan to return refugees and migrants arriving in Greece back to Turkey is "illegal". In a press statement, Juncker's spokeswoman stated that the European Union does not participate in "pushing back" asylum seekers.

On 26 January, in Finland, the Minister of the Interior, Petteri Orpo met with Russian counterpart, Mr Vladimir Kolokoltsev, to discuss the response to increasing numbers of refugees and migrants arriving to Finland from Russia. The two agreed to establish a common solution through the use of collaborative mechanisms.

According to Greek media, the government proposes to open a new hotspot in Piraeus with the capacity to accommodate 2,000-3,000 refugees.

On 28 January, the heads of the OECD and UNHCR, at a joint high-level [Conference on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in Paris](#), have called on governments to scale up their efforts to help refugees integrate and contribute to the societies and economies of Europe. The OECD and UNHCR stressed not only the moral imperative but also the clear economic incentive to help the millions of refugees living in OECD countries to develop the skills they need to work productively and safely.

### Weather Headlines

- Winds across the Aegean are generally light through the next few days, although they are expected to strengthen on Sunday night. No significant change to the current number of arrivals to the Greek Islands is expected due to the weather this weekend.
- Temperatures overnight are still quite cold for those people remaining outside for long periods, but it will remain mild by day.
- It is expected to turn increasingly unsettled and windy across the region through the second half of next week.



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- [Refugee/Migrant Onward Movement Map \(p. 5\)](#)



## Social Media

- On 28 January, on Facebook, the Danish Embassy in the United States publicised facts about Denmark and the refugee crisis in Europe related to expected refugee arrivals to Denmark in 2016 and related financial expenditures to support refugees.
- On Twitter, UNHCR Chief, Filippo Grandi, tweeted "Excellent meeting with @fhollande (Francois Hollande) today, looking forward to working w/France to support those forced to flee.
- #refugeecrisis has an estimated 83 tweets and 143 retweets per hour.



## Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

11-17 January  
**1,458**  
-20% from previous week



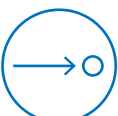
25-28 January  
**2,443**  
22% from previous week



18-24 January  
**2,004**  
37% from previous week



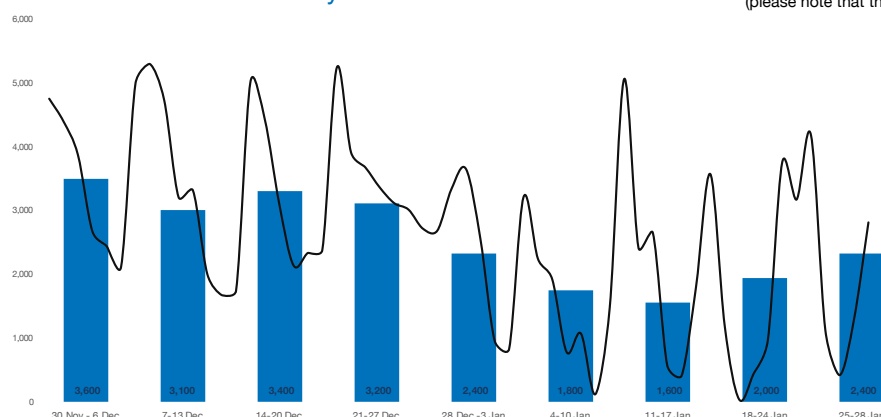
Monthly Average Daily Arrival  
January (as of 28 Jan)  
**1,896**  
-43% from previous month



## Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday



## Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 30 November to 28 January



\*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
(please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used only for design purposes)



## Weather conditions forecast for Greece and Countries of Onward Movements

Key locations crossed by refugees



## Weather Assessment

- Across the Aegean, winds are generally light, although the wind is forecast to temporarily increase on Sunday night and early Monday. Analysis based on previous events would suggest that until then, the rate of arrivals to the Greek Islands is expected to remain similar.
- Temperatures are now rather mild across the region, particularly by day. Temperatures overnight are still expected to fall close to

freezing inland from the coast though and it will still feel cold for people exposed for long periods overnight.

- No significant rain or snow is expected through the weekend or early next week. However, a trend to more unsettled conditions with rain, stronger winds and colder conditions is likely during the second half of next week.



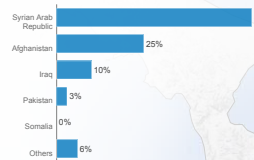
## Annex 1

### Key Figures from the Portal

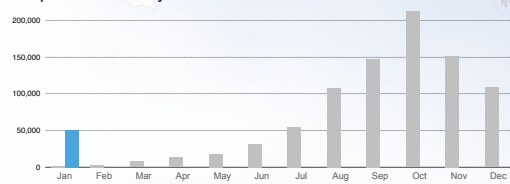
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

#### Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



#### Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



50,668 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

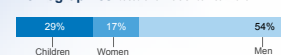
91% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries

© Last updated: 27 Jan 2016

Sea arrivals in 2016

Main routes through the Mediterranean

#### Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



\*Serbia (AND KOSOVO): S/RES/1244 (1999)  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

#### Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals





## Annex 2

### Refugee/Migrant Onward Movement Map

