

## Weekly Report



### Key Figures

#### Mediterranean

**256,319**

arrivals by sea in 2016\*

**3,116**

dead/missing in 2016\*

#### Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 25 and 31 July, 562 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece – a slight increase to the 495 who crossed the previous week. By the end of July, 160,232 people had crossed the sea to Greece in 2016 compared to 130,103 in the same period in 2015. In July a total of 1,855 arrived to Greece by sea, a slight increase from the 1,544 that crossed in June. However, in the past four months, only 8,770 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece, in comparison to 117,662 in the same period in 2015. Of those arriving in Greece this year, 48% have been from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan, and 15% from Iraq and children have comprised 38% of arrivals with men making up 41% and women 21%.

Between 25 and 31 July, 5,626 people arrived to Italy by sea – a decrease from the 8,179 that arrived the previous week. The number of arrivals in 2016 continues to match those of 2015, with 93,645 arriving in the first seven months of 2016 compared to 93,540 in the same period the previous year. A total of 23,423 people arrived in July this year compared to 23,211 in July 2015. Of those crossing to Italy, Nigerians have comprised 19%, Eritreans 13% and Gambians 7% , with notably 15% of all arrivals being unaccompanied and separated children – mostly from Gambia, Egypt and Eritrea.

#### Key Developments

##### Situation in Greece

The pre-registration exercise led by the Greek Asylum Service, supported by UNHCR and EASO, officially closed on 25 July. The large scale pre-registration exercise was a temporary measure to ease congestion in the Asylum Service's Skype pre-registration system and to provide legal documentation for one year, including for those whose initial Greek documentation had expired. The previous procedure to pre-register with the Asylum

Service via Skype continues. The results of the pre-registration exercise will be released by the Asylum Service soon. Also during the week, the evacuation of Piraeus Port was completed peacefully with 100 persons transferred to a newly-established temporary accommodation site in Trikala in Central Greece.

UNHCR's legal aid programme is being rolled out on the islands and the mainland and as of the end of July, 26 lawyers were deployed on Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros, and Rhodes and a further six lawyers on the mainland in Athens, Thessaloniki, Orestiada, and Alexandroupolis. By 15 August, 33 lawyers are expected on the islands and 12 on the mainland, with 34 expected on the islands and 18 on mainland by 01 September. On Lesbos, the roll-out of information sessions last week, led by the European Commission and the Greek authorities, in partnership with EASO, UNHCR and IOM, provided an opportunity to address queries, including regarding international protection, family reunification, and other issues of concern. Sessions were conducted in multiple languages including Arabic, Pashto, Dari, Kurmanji, French, Amharic, Urdu and Punjabi.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras [announced](#) on 27 July that around 800 teachers will be hired to ensure that thousands of refugee and migrant children can soon be admitted to public schools. "The inclusion of all refugee children in the public school system will begin in September," Tsipras said in a televised address. Athens Mayor Yiorgos Kaminis estimated that 22,000 children will be eligible to attend school.

In Central Greece, weekly site coordination meetings with the authorities managing the sites and the humanitarian organizations supporting them are held regularly and successfully in Kipselochori, Volos, Ritsona, and Oinofyta sites. The meetings allow for the group to discuss the latest needs and gaps and identify solutions relat-

**Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to July 2016**



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 02 August 2016

Key Figures

Greece

**562**

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands  
25 July - 31 July

**80**

Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands  
25 July - 31 July

Italy

**5,626**

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy  
25 July - 31 July

**804**

Daily Average Arrivals to Italy  
25 July - 31 July

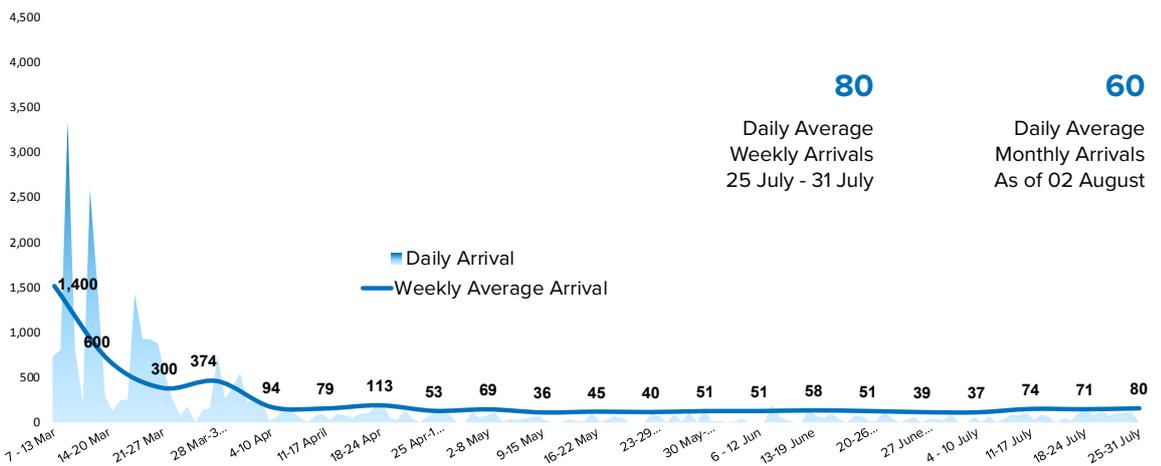
ed to the daily management of the sites. UNHCR is also chairing the Protection coordination meetings in Ritsona site, as well as the regional Protection Working Group meetings in Thessaloniki, covering all sites in Northern Greece.

UNHCR staff carried out information sessions throughout mainland Greece on asylum, relocation, and family reunification. UNHCR also worked on enhancing structures among the refugee communities, in order for them to have proper representation of women, men, and youth, while also assessing child friendly spaces and safe places for female refugees to be established. UNHCR is supporting ongoing efforts to establish refugee committees in sites in Northern Greece to discuss issues related to women, men, youth, health and education, among others. UNHCR is promoting the formation of a

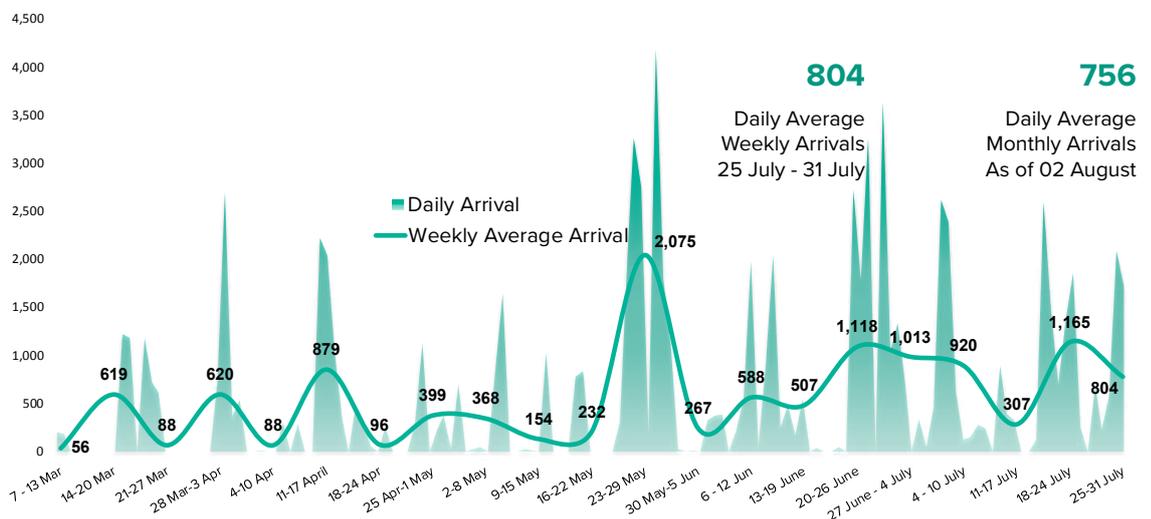
number of "technical" committees representing specific groups/with responsibilities for specific topics (e.g. men, women, cleaning, etc.) to ensure more equal participation in decision-making, neutralize discussion and reduce the risk of influencing the refugee community in favor of a particular group.

Efforts to engage refugees with host communities have also been ongoing in Northern Greece. In collaboration with INTERSOS, UNHCR started a micro grants project aimed to provide 10 small grants up to 12,000 Euros for community-based organizations to implement social cohesion initiatives in the refugee hosting areas. Initially, the project will focus on the Katarini region for the surrounding hosting areas covering the three sites of Alexandria, Veria and Giannitsa. The project may be further expanded at a later stage. Currently, UNHCR and INTER-

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece  
7 March to 31 July 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy  
7 March to 31 July 2016



SOS are conducted orientation workshops for community-based organizations, local authorities and refugees on expected outcomes of the Community Based Projects.

### Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

An average of 1,260 people waited each day last week to enter Hungary from Serbia to seek asylum via the two 'transit zones'. On average 780 people camped outside the two 'transit zones' each day in difficult conditions. Hungarian authorities continued to admit around 30 people each day. Of those waiting for entry, 64% were Afghans and 25% Syrians while on average 41% were children, 37% men and 22% women. During the week, over 140 asylum-seekers participated in a hunger strike to protest the low numbers granted entry each day but the protest was ultimately called off after six days.

Between 25 and 31 July, Hungarian officials reported preventing the entry of 476 persons and apprehending and returning 411 to the border with Serbia. Since 05 July, when the new border restrictions were introduced in Hungary allowing persons intercepted within 8km of the border to be returned to the other side of the fence on the Serbian border, 1,701 people have been intercepted and returned, and 2,474 have been prevented from crossing the border irregularly.

### Update on Relocation

Last week, Netherlands pledged an additional 100 places for relocation candidates from Greece in addition to the previous 450. A total of 6,961 places have been pledged by 22 countries for those in Greece. As of 28 July, a fast decreasing number of only 211 places, were left open for relocation candidates, in relation to those who have been referred for relocation. The number of actual relocations and scheduled departures remains low at 3,018- only 4.5% of the 66,400 people who are

supposed to be relocated from Greece by September 2017.

During the week, 70 persons were relocated from Italy to Luxembourg (20) and France (50), while the previous week, six persons were transferred to Latvia. As a result, the total number of relocations from Italy currently stands at 952.

### EU Developments

On 28 July, the European Commission (EC) [announced](#) an additional EUR 1,4 billion of non-humanitarian funding (from DG NEAR) under the [Facility for Refugees in Turkey](#). This consists of direct grants with the Turkish Ministries for education and health, as well as funding for municipal infrastructure and socio-economic support via international financial institutions. In addition, the EC referred to a total of EUR 169 million humanitarian funding (from DG ECHO) already contracted under the Facility. All these amounts are part of the EUR 3 billion financial commitments to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement.

On 29 July, the EC [awarded](#) an additional EUR 11 million in emergency funding to Greece and Italy under the Internal Security Fund (ISF – from DG HOME). EUR 7.3 million was awarded to the Greek Reception and Identification Service to strengthen reception capacity and medical services in Greece and in particular on the islands. This was complemented by an extra EUR 500,000 to improve the water supply network and sewage system connection at the Reception and Identification Centre on Samos. EUR 2.2 million was allocated to the Italian Coast Guard to support search and rescue activities at sea and EUR 1 million was awarded to the Italian Navy in order to support the medical screening of refugees and migrants after their rescue at sea.

## Key Documents from the Portal

**UNHCR GREECE FACTSHEET**  
1 – 30 June 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH**

- 15,674 asylum seekers registered in Greece
- 7,252 asylum seekers granted asylum in Greece
- 105,525 asylum seekers in Greece
- 14,224 asylum seekers in Greece
- 3,952 asylum seekers in Greece

**Population of concern**  
As of 30 June 2016, UNHCR is assisting 156,325 people in Greece. As of 30 June 2016, UNHCR is assisting 156,325 people in Greece. As of 30 June 2016, UNHCR is assisting 156,325 people in Greece.

**Funding USD 300 million**  
USD 123.8 million requested

**UNHCR Presence**  
100 UNHCR staff and 100 UNHCR volunteers in Greece

**GREECE ACCOMMODATION FOR RELOCATION PROJECT FACTSHEET**  
As part of the EU-Turkey Statement

**CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 7,252 accommodation places identified for relocation candidates
- 8,923 accommodation places identified for relocation candidates
- 6,186 places identified for relocation candidates
- 3,802 places identified for relocation candidates
- 1,994 places identified for relocation candidates
- 1,000 places identified for relocation candidates
- 133 places identified for relocation candidates

**What is Relocation?**  
Relocation is the transfer of asylum seekers from Greece to other EU Member States during the period of their asylum claim. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process.

**UNHCR's Accommodation for Relocation project**  
The project is part of the EU-Turkey Statement. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process.

**Towards out-of-camp assistance and sustainable livelihoods**  
UNHCR is working to support the relocation of asylum seekers to other EU Member States. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process.

**Who are accommodated?**  
The project provides assistance to asylum seekers registered with the Greek Asylum Service. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process.

**UNHCR and Statistics**  
SERBIA UPDATE  
28-31 July 2016

**KEY STATISTICS**

- 1,701 persons intercepted at the border with Serbia
- 411 persons returned to Serbia
- 2,474 persons prevented from crossing the border
- 211 places left open for relocation candidates
- 3,018 actual relocations and scheduled departures

**UNHCR and Statistics**  
UNHCR is working to support the relocation of asylum seekers from Serbia to other EU Member States. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process. It is a voluntary process.

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## Timeline Overview

● Highlights

