

## Weekly Report



### Key Figures

#### Mediterranean

**268,602**

arrivals by sea in 2016\*

**3,166**

dead/missing in 2016\*

### Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 15 and 21 August, 923 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece, a continuation of the steady increase in arrivals observed during the earlier part of the month. Since the end of July there has been an increase in daily arrivals, reaching an average of 109 per day so far in August, compared to 62 in July and 52 in June. However, arrival figures this month (9,766) are still much lower in comparison to August 2015 (107,843). Thus far in 2016, 162,586 persons have arrived to Greece by sea, contributing to a total of 268,602 arrivals by sea in the Mediterranean. Of those arriving in Greece, the main countries of origin remain the Syrian Arab Republic (48%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (15%).

From 15 to 21 August, 2,055 refugees and migrants arrived to Italy by sea as a result of 11 search and rescue operations (SAR), seven of which occurred over the weekend. Arrivals during the reporting period have seen a slight increase from 1,777 the previous week. Some 311 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were among those who arrived by sea during the week, accounting for approximately 15% of the population of weekly sea arrivals. As of 21 August, a total of 103,540 persons arrived by sea in Italy in 2016, compared to 116,149 persons which disembarked at the end of August 2015. Notably, on 21 August some 147 persons arrived by sea in Crotone originating from Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, Iran and Syria. However, the top nationalities of origin among arrivals continue to be Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia, and Sudan. Overall, sea arrivals in 2016 continue to be in line with 2014 and 2015 trends.

### Key Developments

#### Situation in Como and Northern Border Areas

In order to address the accommodation needs of persons currently hosted in informal settlements by the Italy-Switzerland border in Como, local authorities identified an area where a transit reception facility will be set up by mid-September. Although some 500 persons are currently hosted in informal settlements, prefab units

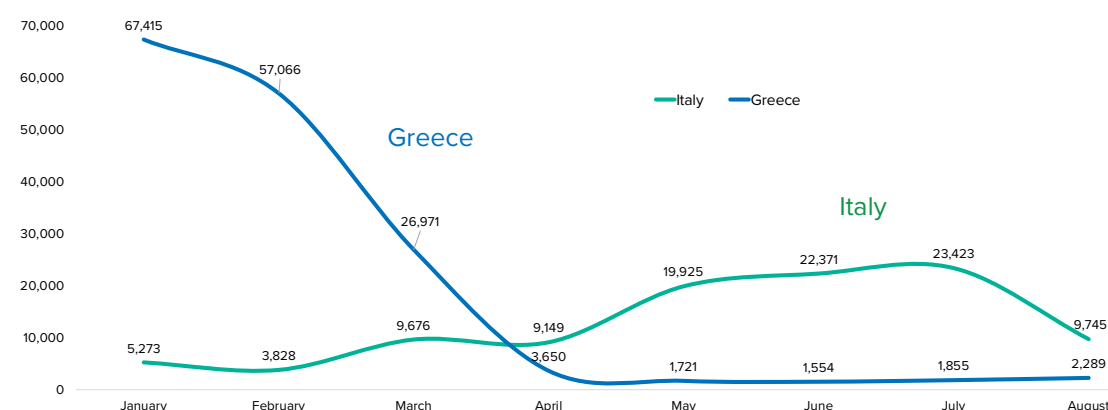
at the above facility will reportedly host up to 300 persons. Transfers of persons from Ventimiglia (Italy-France border) to reception centres in southern Italy continued during the week.

### Situation in Greece

With the slight increase of arrivals in the previous weeks, the capacity on the already strained accommodation spaces on the islands have exceeded their limit estimated by over 3,000 individuals. The maximum capacity on the islands remains 7,450 while the total presence on the islands was 11,343 until 21 August. Although referrals of persons and families with specific needs continue throughout sites on the islands by UNHCR and partners, shelter capacity and registration are being impacted by the steady increase of arrivals, particularly at Moria and Kara Tepe on Lesbos. Similarly, on Kos the Registration and Identification Centre (RIC) has reached its maximum capacity. New arrivals on Kalymnos are transferred to Sfageia site, where they remain in sub-standard conditions, before they get transferred to Kos RIC. Discussions are ongoing with government officials on identifying additional reception sites on the mainland in order to alleviate maximized reception centres and sites on the Aegean islands.

UNHCR continues to support the authorities' efforts to ensure protection and assistance to UASC. On Leros, UNHCR conducted information sessions with UASC through interpreters. During the sessions, UASC voiced their concerns regarding the delay in the processing of their asylum claims and need to improve the living conditions in the RIC, and making their daily life more diversified. Additionally, following UNHCR's suggestion to take UASC on excursions in Kos in order to expose them to positive and engaging activities, UNHCR received permission from authorities on Kos to do so. In respect of pending decisions and asylum claims, UNHCR and child protection partners continue to actively follow-up with relevant authorities regarding cases, advocate for their rights, and ensure immediate access to appropriate ser-

### Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 21 August 2016



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 23 August 2016

## Key Figures

### Greece

**923**

Total Weekly  
Arrivals to  
Greek Islands

15 August - 21 August

**130**

Daily Average  
Arrivals to  
Greek Islands

15 August - 21 August

### Italy

**2,055**

Total Weekly  
Arrivals to Italy

15 August - 21 August

**294**

Daily Average  
Arrivals to Italy

15 August - 21 August

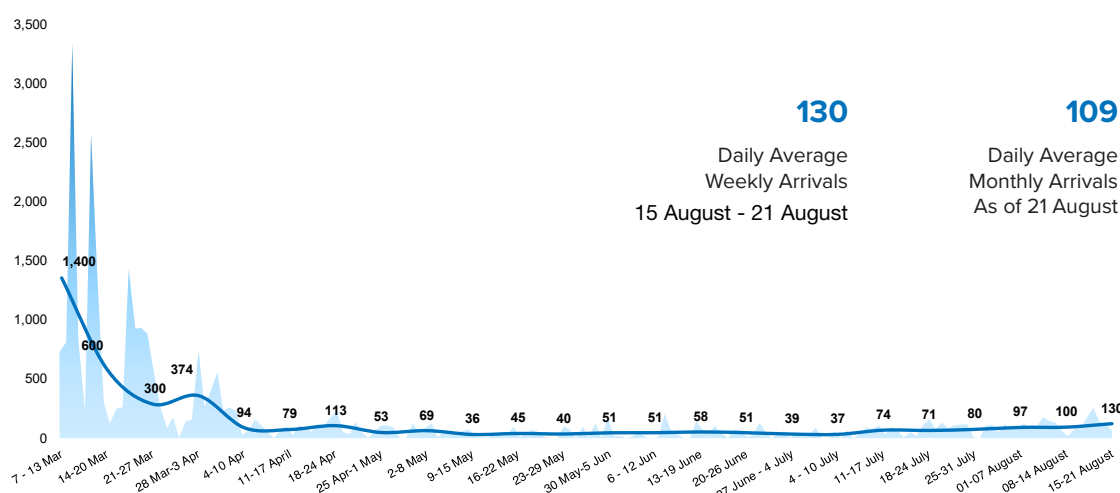
vices.

On the mainland, enhancing community based activities through recreational and educational initiatives is seeing progress. The first lessons in English, Greek, mathematics, and other languages started at Elliniko II began, where a member of the asylum-seeking community took the initiative leading English lessons. UNHCR will purchase material to improve the quality of the classes, and has already purchased and delivered furniture and school supplies for the community-based school in Elefsina site. Additionally, 17 young refugees identified by UNHCR, are participating in the Summer School "Beyond the Refugee Crisis - Studying in Europe" from 18 August to 28 August. The event is organized by the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and will take place at the campus of the International Olympic Academy in Olympia/ Peloponnese. The aim of the Summer School is to equip young refugees with the tools and knowledge for those who wish to pursue higher studies in Greece or elsewhere in Europe. The

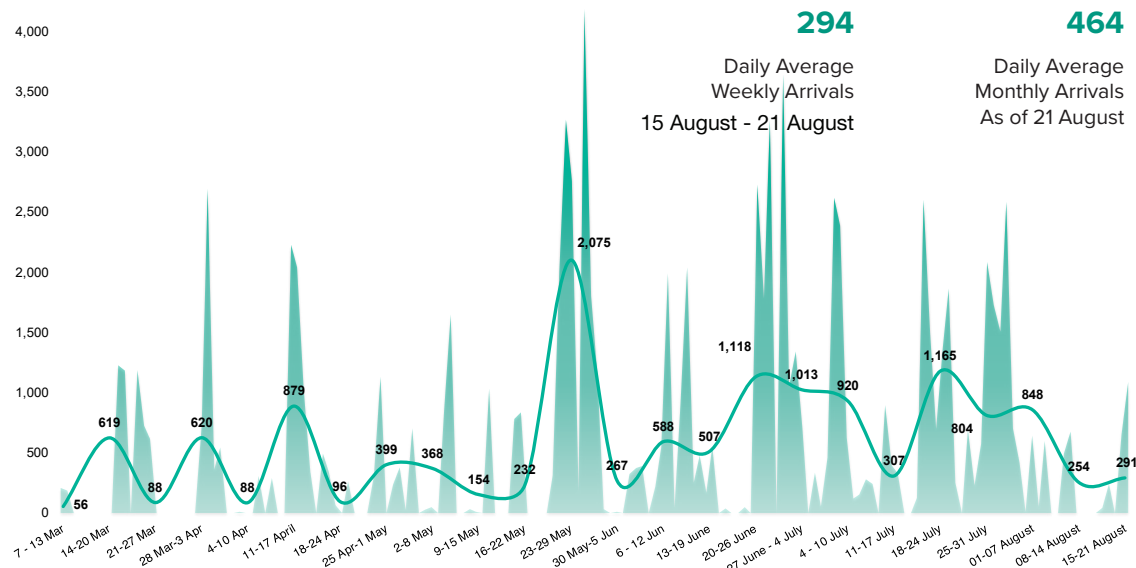
academic programme includes a series of seminars and workshops on European culture, language, human rights and citizenship, as well as presentations/discussions concerning European universities.

In an effort to address recent security concerns, including unauthorized entry to sites, UNHCR is advocating with authorities, particularly at the central level, to respond to security gaps. UNHCR is concerned as continued tensions and unrest, which present threats to asylum-seekers and impacts the safety of humanitarian responders as well. During the reporting period, a security risk assessment mission of United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UNHCR from headquarters and Greece met with Greek police authorities and visited two islands (Lesvos and Chios) and sites in Attica and Thessaloniki. In view of security concerns, the EU joint police body, Europol, [announced on 15 August](#), that it will deploy a team of anti-terror experts to Greece in addition to teams sent earlier this year to Greece's hotspots.

#### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 21 August 2016



#### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 21 August 2016



### Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary border

The estimated total number of refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants in Serbia continued to grow to around 4,400 in comparison to 4,000 the previous week. For the first time since early July, when the new Hungarian legislation was introduced, the total number of refugees and migrants in the North dropped below 1,000. Following efforts by authorities, UNHCR and partners, to decongest the border area by offering better conditions in governmental centres, the number of asylum-seekers camping near the two transit zones fell below 440 from 840 three weeks ago, with majority are now accommodated in reception centres. New arrivals are encouraged to go to other facilities, such as Refugee Aid Points (RAPs) in Subotica and in the West. The population of those awaiting entry is comprised of predominantly women and children (62%) from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria at these two border sites. Overall, conditions further improved with Serbian NGOs ensuring better sanitation, installation of hand washing stations, phone charging, and other facilities. UNHCR and partners continue to conduct protection monitoring, provide assistance and information consultations on asylum procedures, while also supporting coordination amongst the authorities and humanitarian agencies.

The current admission rate to Hungary remains limited to 15 people per day per transit zone, with many asylum-seekers waiting a month or more as a result. In total 207 asylum-seekers have been admitted (104 in Röszke and 103 to Tompa) during the reporting period. UNHCR continues to provide asylum-seekers admitted into the transit zone with information and counselling on their rights and obligations in relation to the border procedures and is monitoring the process, while its partner the Hungarian Helsinki Committee is providing legal aid. The Hungarian Office of Immigration and Nationality, as well as government funded charities, NGOs and local aid groups continue to assist by providing food and non-food items to people in the waiting areas outside the transit zones.

During the week, Hungarian police reported 120 apprehensions for irregular entry, individuals apprehended

are taken into detention with the opportunity to apply for asylum. Meanwhile an additional 503 people were prevented from irregularly crossing the border and another 503 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border fence.

### Update on Relocation

From Italy, no transfers under the relocation programme took place during the week. The overall number of relocations from Italy remains at 961, corresponding to 2% of the target of 39,600 agreed upon in September 2015 to be relocated from Italy.

Thus far, a total of 3,016 asylum-seekers, 4.5% against the targeted 66,400, have been relocated from Greece to other EU countries since the beginning of the relocation programme in November 2015. EU Member States made available 8,003 pledges so far, while the relocation requests submitted by the Greek Asylum Service have been 7,751.

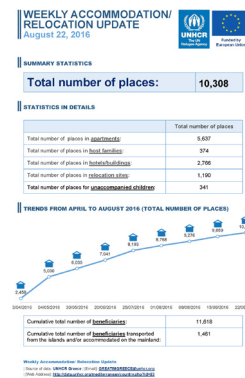
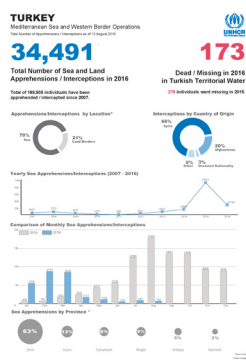
In Greece, the accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme funded by the European Union reached 10,017 places as of 17 August, representing more than 50% of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners. Over 11,389 persons have so far benefitted from the project, which includes the cumulative number of current and past places occupied, persons relocated to EU Member States and irregular departures and/or abandons.

### Update on Readmissions from Greece to Turkey

Two readmission operations from Greece to Turkey were carried out during the reporting period. On 17 August, eight Syrian nationals voluntarily returned to Turkey; these are cases of people who did not apply for asylum or who withdrew their applications. The following day, six persons (four Pakistani and two Algerians) were returned by ferry from Lesbos to the port of Dikili in Turkey. Out of the four Pakistani nationals, two were readmitted on a voluntary basis and two following rejection of the appeal decisions; the two Algerians were readmitted on a voluntary basis.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece is 482 as of 21 August.

## Key Documents from the Portal



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## Timeline Overview

### Highlights

