

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean

313,872

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,604

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 26 September to 02 October, 668 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece, a slight increase from the 597 that crossed the previous week. There was a total of 3,080 sea arrivals during September, a slight decrease from the 3,447 who arrived in August this year. During the first nine months of 2016, 166,824 persons have arrived to Greece by sea, in comparison to 385,069 who crossed during the same period in 2015. As of 2 October, the main countries of origin of those who arrived in Greece remain the Syrian Arab Republic (48%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (15%); children comprised 38% of arrivals with men making up 41% and women 21%.

Between 26 September to 02 October, 406 refugees and migrants arrived to Italy, of which 161 (40%) were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In comparison, 1,021 arrived the previous week. Between 01 January and 02 October 2016, 131,915 persons arrived by sea, compared to 132,071 persons that disembarked at the end of September 2015. According to Italian authorities, in total 18,564 UASC have arrived to Italy by sea as of 15 September, compared to 12,360 in 2015 and 13,026 in 2014. Overall, sea arrival trends in 2016 remain on par with 2014 and 2015. The top countries of origin among arrivals include Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia, and Sudan.

Key Developments

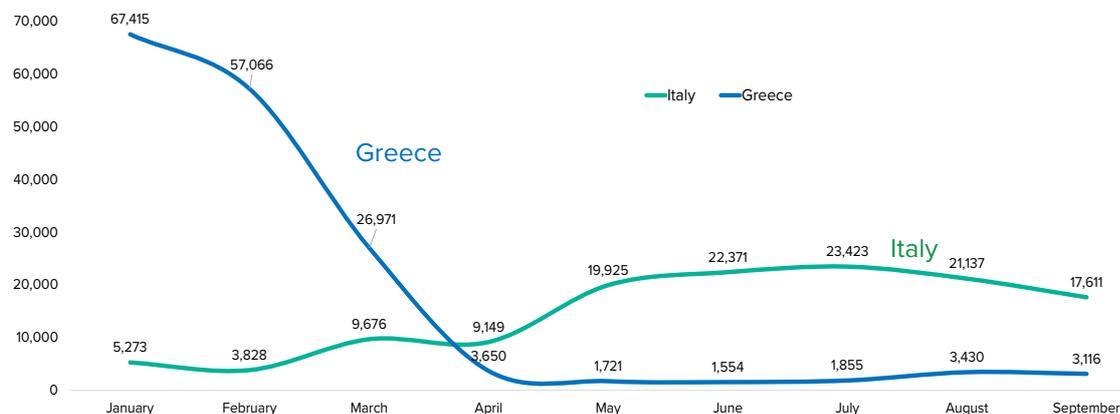
Situation in Greece

With an average of 104 daily arrivals to the Aegean islands during the month of September, Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) continue to face serious challenges with capacity and shelter allocation for new arrivals. The maximum capacity on the five islands remains 7,450 while the total presence on the islands was

14,331 as of 02 October according to Greek authorities. Each island is addressing these challenges with support from UNHCR and humanitarian partners including identifying and opening more alternative shelters for asylum-seekers with specific needs, particularly unaccompanied and separated children. The Greek government with the support of UNHCR continued with transfer operations of asylum-seekers from the islands to the mainland to alleviate overcrowding on the islands. Host communities and asylum-seekers on the Aegean Islands have raised concerns of increased tensions. Acceleration of transfers, registration and processing of asylum claims coupled with regular information provision and security presence are urgently needed to help improve the situation on the islands.

Following the pre-registration exercise on the mainland which concluded on 25 July, UNHCR continues to support the Asylum Service by providing information, interpretation assistance and transportation for all applicants from the sites or apartment-based accommodation to their asylum interview at the Regional Asylum Offices in Athens, Thessaloniki and Alexandroupoli. The same transport service has already been provided to relocation candidates since July 2016, as part of UNHCR's support to the EU programme. So far, an estimated number of 3,000 asylum-seekers have been provided transportation to the Regional Asylum Office in Northern Greece in September 2016, including those pre-registered and previously registered relocation candidates. During the pre-registration process 18,548 potential relocation candidates were identified and provided information on the relocation programme. The identified accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme funded by the European Union reached a total of 12,671 places, 63 % of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to September 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 7 October 2016

Key Figures

the end of 2016. A total of 13,888 people that have benefited from this project since November 2015.

UNHCR met with Government officials to discuss winterization and other interventions in Registration and Identification Centres, including non-food item distribution and cash based assistance.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

The number of people encountered by UNHCR and partners in Serbia rose to 5,700 compared to 5,000 the pre-

vious week, of which around 37% are children, 45% are men and 18% are women. Main nationalities represented include 53% from Afghanistan, 14% from Syria and 10% from Pakistan. Of those, around 82% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,685 throughout the five Asylum Centres and 3,008 in Refugee Aid Points (RAPs) or Reception Centres (RC). The others were counted in Belgrade city centre or at the two sites near the Hungarian border. The increase of those present has in particular been observed in the occupancy of the three Refugee Aid Points in the West, while in Belgrade

Greece

668

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands

26 September - 2 October

95

Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands

26 September - 2 October

Italy

406

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy

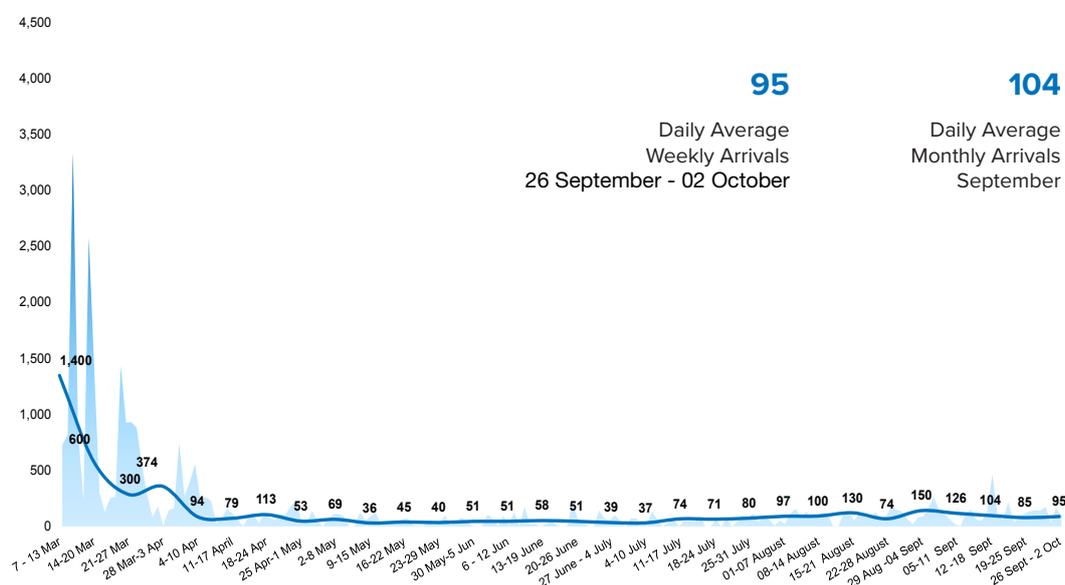
26 September - 2 October

58

Daily Average Arrivals to Italy

26 September - 2 October

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece
07 March to 02 October 2016



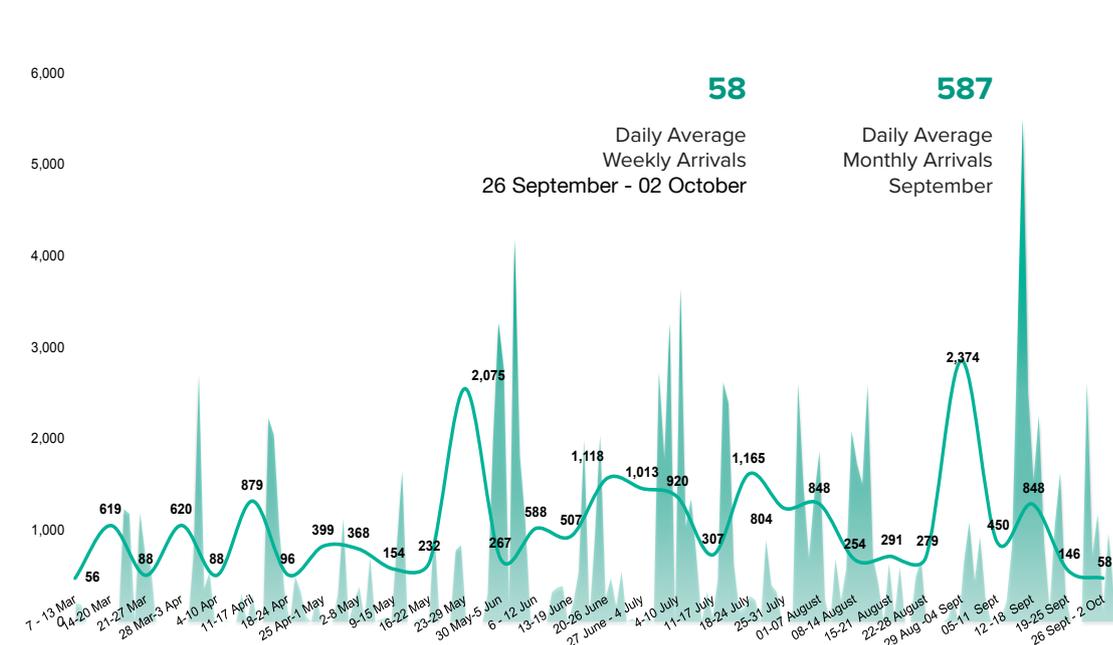
95

Daily Average Weekly Arrivals
26 September - 02 October

104

Daily Average Monthly Arrivals
September

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy
07 March to 02 October 2016



58

Daily Average Weekly Arrivals
26 September - 02 October

587

Daily Average Monthly Arrivals
September

public spaces and parks remained crowded as well. The authorities, UNHCR and partners maintain presence and provide support such as protection assistance and monitoring, legal counselling on asylum and support for coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies in all sites throughout the country. In the areas outside the transit zones near the Hungarian border around 250 people, an increase from the 116 last week, were awaiting admission to Hungary staying in makeshift tents relying on assistance provided by government authorities, local aid groups and other humanitarian actors from both Serbia and Hungary.

During the reporting period, 207 people entered Hungary through the two transit zones, with the continued daily cap of an estimated 15 individuals per transit zone admitted entry. The Hungarian Police reported 47 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 323 people were prevented from crossing the border and 334 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence.

UNHCR is deeply concerned about the polarized content national public discourse in Hungary related to foreigners and refugees. The Government actively campaigned for a referendum held on 02 October regarding the relocation of refugees to Hungary. Early results suggest that more than half (56%) of the electorate did not participate in voting, not meeting the required threshold to validate the referendum in order to directly enact Constitutional changes.

Update on Relocation

From Italy, 62 asylum-seekers were relocated to Finland. Since the adoption of the relocation scheme, a total of

1,258 persons (3.2% of the 39,600 target) have been relocated from Italy. So far 3,809 pledges were received from adhering states (latest EC data, 27 September).

From Greece, there were 525 asylum-seekers relocated during the reporting period. Thus far, a total of 4,468 (6.7%) asylum-seekers against the targeted 66,400, have been relocated from Greece to other EU countries since the beginning of the relocation programme in November 2015. A total of 9,596 pledges have been made by EU Member States, including those made by Malta which pledged 28 places during the reporting period.

Update on Readmissions from Greece to Turkey

Readmissions continue under the Greece-Turkey bilateral readmission agreement, with 70 non-Syrian nationals (mostly Pakistani) returned on 26 September 2016 from Lesbos to Dikeli by plane. Of those readmitted, 63 had not expressed their wish to ask to asylum, three had received rejection decisions at first instance and did not appeal and four withdrew their application for asylum.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece is 579 as of 02 October.

EU and related Developments

On 26 September, in Ankara, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Stylianides **launched** the “Emergency Social Safety Net” (ESSN), which is the largest-ever EU humanitarian aid program. The program is set to provide a monthly electronic cash grant to benefit 1 million refugees in Turkey.

On 28 September, the European Commission (EC) released their **“Sixth Report** on Relocation and Resettle-

Key Documents from the Portal

1 October 2016

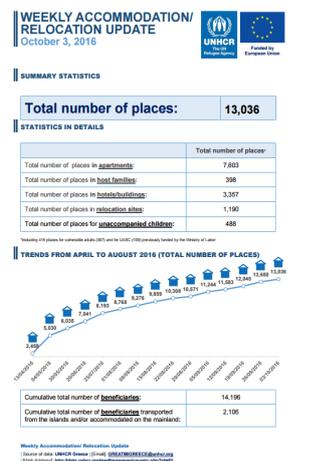
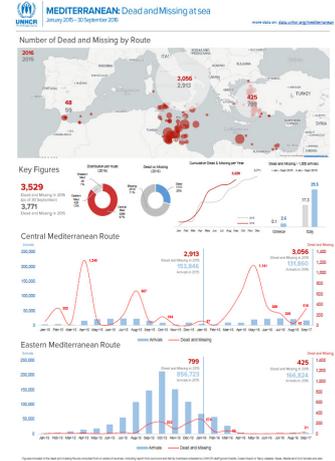
GREECE: ACCOMMODATION FOR RELOCATION PROJECT FACTSHEET
As part of the EU-funded project “Support to Greece for the development of the hosting-relocation scheme as well as for strengthening asylum reception capacity”

Highlights of September

- The accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme funded by the European Union reached 13,036 places as of 30 September, representing 65 per cent of the 20,000 target of 2016 and 50 partners by the end of 2016. The monthly number of pledges made by EU Member States from Greece reached a new high of 4,525, after a year of operation since September 2015. The monthly average for the last three months was less than 500. Currently, the citizens (20% per cent) and about (25% per cent) arrived and exceeded their targets, while the average commitments without the two Member States mentioned remains a modest 25 per cent.
- On 1 September, the CEO of REA, Headquarter Mr. Pier Niggemas visited one of the apartments managed by partner NGOs, Municipality of Athens. He showed great interest in the provision of education to the children during their stay in Athens, and was warmly welcomed by the relocation candidates.
- Executive Committee Chair Ambassador Mr. Carlos Saez with the French-Indonesian representative of the apartments managed by partner NGOs, One of the relocation candidates (Eun), 150 himself provided the English translation to his extended family of seven.
- On 20 September, as part of the European Cultural Heritage Days programme, 23 beneficiaries of the Accommodation for Relocation project in two separate groups went on an excursion to the Cycladic Art Museum. An English and Arabic interpreter was present. “I only read about Greek culture in books but I have been able to see it and feel it”, said one of the participants. “and I am grateful to the staff of the museum for their kind and warm welcome and for the opportunity to participate in this project”.

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- 13,036 accommodation places available for relocation candidates and relocation to Greece
- 14,196 beneficiaries (duration under 18 months and last 12 months) (gender: 50% women) (nationality: 100% Syrian and 0% non-Syrian)
- 9,624 places pledged by EU Member States for relocation from Greece
- 7,143 persons accepted by the EU Member States for relocation from Greece
- 4,525 persons left Greece to other EU countries under the relocation scheme
- 488 places for unaccompanied children (UAC) established



ment". The EC considers that progress has been made on both schemes, noting in particular a significant increase in the number of relocations in September. The EC encouraged Member States to pledge more relocation places, relocate regularly from both Greece and Italy, and nominate experts for European Asylum and Support Office (EASO) deployment. The EC also called on Greece and Italy to continue increasing their processing capacity, on Greece to identify sites for the accommodation of relocation candidates, and on Italy to implement the first relocations of UASC.

That same day, the EC also released their "[Third recommendation](#)" on urgent measures to be taken by Greece in view of the resumption of transfers under the Dublin Regulation", which have been suspended since 2011. In the recommendation, the EC notes that, despite significant efforts and progress, the country should take further steps before a possible resumption of the transfers. They include progress on reception facilities, access to asylum procedures and the establishment of structures for vulnerable applicants.

The EC also released their "[Third Report](#)" on the Progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey State-

ment". They consider the Statement to be effective, based on the "sharp and continued decrease" in the number of people arriving to the Greek islands. However, the Report identifies areas for further progress, in particular (i) providing resources to ensure the effective processing of asylum claims on the Greek islands, both in first instance and appeal, to increase the number of returns to Turkey, (ii) ensuring that Turkey takes measures to fulfil the necessary requirements to be granted visa liberalization and (iii) continuing to swiftly contract and implement projects to support refugees in Turkey.

As part of related commitments, the EC [signed](#) two direct grants with the Turkish Ministries of Education and Health for a total of EUR 600 million to support Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey. The EUR 600 million grants – EUR 300 million for education and EUR 300 million for health - are funded under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, which supports the implementation of both the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan and the EU-Turkey Statement, and is designed to address the most critical needs of Syrian refugees and host communities living in Turkey today.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

