

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
333,940

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,949

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 24 and 30 October, 398 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece, a decrease from the 613 who crossed the previous week. There was a total of 2,635 arrivals during October compared to 211,663 that arrived during October 2015. So far in 2016, 169,459 persons have arrived to Greece by sea, in comparison to 596,732 in the same period in 2015. In October, arrivals to Greece via the land border increased, including a large group of 214 that crossed the Evros River on 04 October. As of 31 October, the main countries of origin of those who arrived in Greece remain the Syrian Arab Republic (47%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (15%); children comprised 37% of arrivals with men making up 42% and women 21%.

During the same week, 10,198 refugees and migrants arrived to Italy – an increase from the 3,992 that arrived the previous week. Over 27,000 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores in October, this is a recent increase in sea arrivals from the almost 17,000 persons who arrived in September. Up until 31 October, 159,315 persons crossed the sea to Italy in 2016 – surpassing the arrival figures for the same period in 2015 by which time 140,987 had reached Italy. However, total sea arrivals for September and October 2016 are on par with sea arrivals recorded over September and October 2014. The top countries of origin among arrivals include Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia, and Sudan.

and humanitarian partners. On Lesbos, at Moria Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) a fire broke out on 24 October following a protest by a group of residents. This incident resulted in the destruction of nine containers and affected the transfer of 113 individuals residing in accommodation managed by Caritas who were identified as eligible to travel to the mainland. UNHCR is assisting authorities in ensuring replacement documents are issued to asylum-seekers including those of 14 families who were eligible to move to the mainland this week. Additionally, authorities have shared a list with UNHCR of those eligible for accelerated transfer to the mainland, in order to support any further referrals as needed. On Samos, where all sites have surpassed their official capacity threefold, the overall security situation at Vathy site is reportedly tense due to the recent increase of new arrivals to the island over the last weeks with between 200 and 350 arrivals per week. This exacerbates the already poor living conditions at the RIC, thus exposing people to protection risks and security hazards (health, fire, landslide of the expanded area). The slow pace of decongestion is further contributing to overcrowding, poor living conditions and tensions. UNHCR continues to advocate for the improved reception conditions and establishment of new appropriate space on the islands, acceleration of transfers, swifter registration and processing of asylum claims along with regular information provision and security presence.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

With an average of 108 daily arrivals in October, several sites on the islands continue to be overcrowded with their maximum capacity far exceeded. Each island is addressing these challenges with support from UNHCR

On the Greek mainland, the security situation in the main sites in Northern and Central Greece remain of concern where protests and unrest continue in various sites, including Softex. There is still an urgent need for Greek authorities to address the underlying causes of security issues and ensure regular security presence of law enforcement authorities. UNHCR is supporting 24

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 30 October 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 01 November 2016

Key Figures

Greece

419

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

24 October - 30 October

60

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

24 October - 30 October

Italy

10,198

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

24 October - 30 October

1,457

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

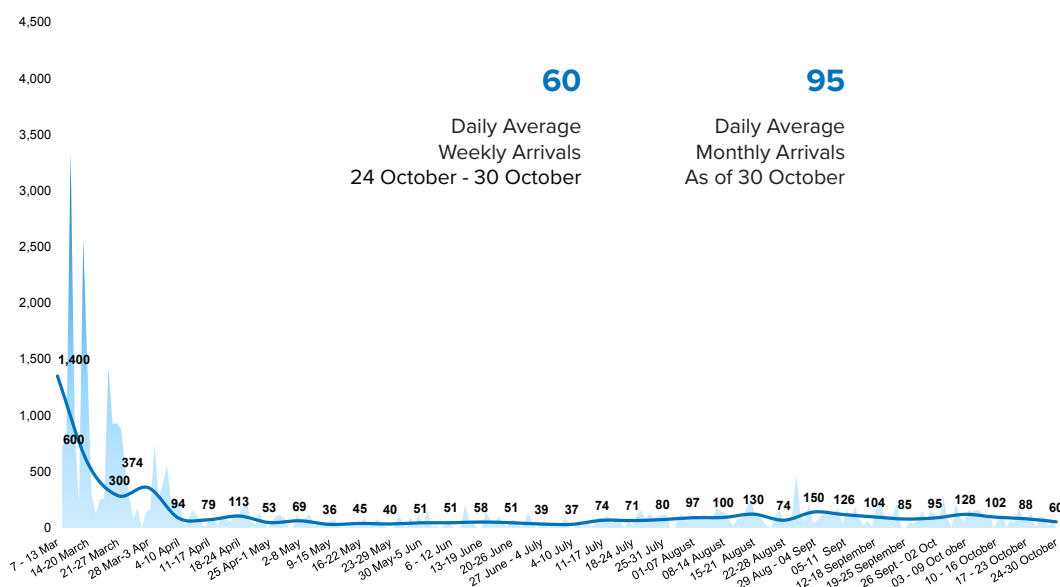
24 October - 30 October

safe spaces with 590 accommodation places for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The referral and accommodation system for UASC is managed by the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), with the support of UNHCR. During the reporting period 57 cases were prioritized to EKKA. UNHCR has established 1,472 new accommodation places as of 31 October under its project in support of the relocation program funded by the European Union. As part of this project a total of 15,151 places have been created, 75 % of the 20,000 target to be reached by UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016. Over 16,100 persons have benefitted from

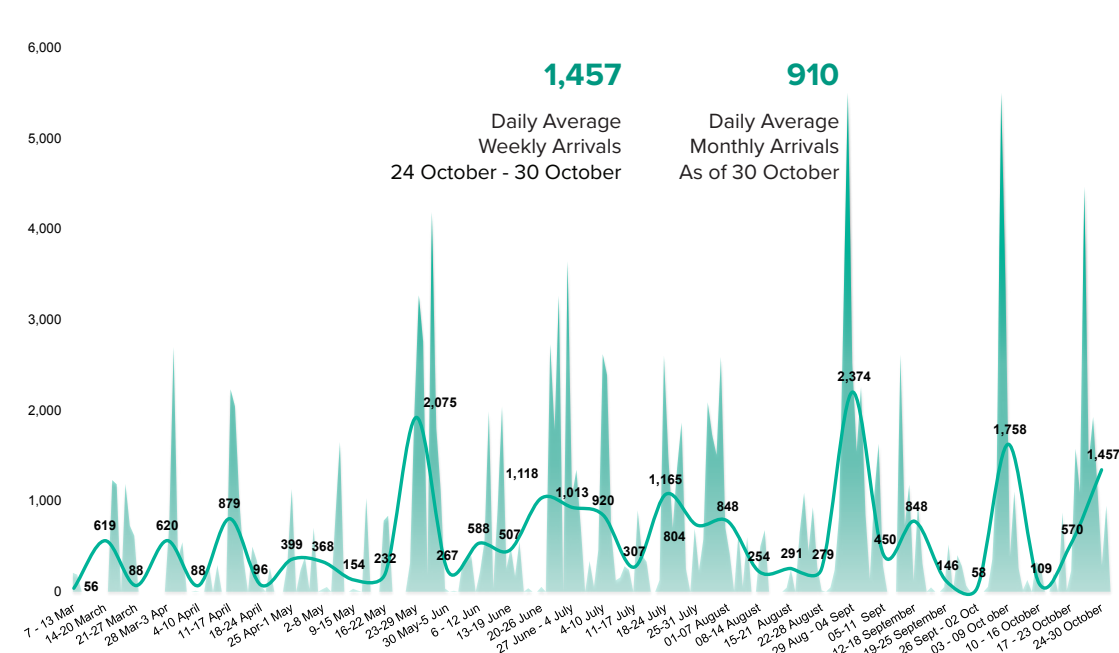
the program since November 2015.

In preparation for winter, UNHCR delivered 174 prefab housing units to Nea Kavala site in Northern Greece on 27 October and another 60 were also dispatched to Kat-sikas site by the end of the week. It was decided to start dispatching prefabs to Alexandria and Filippiada sites within the end of the next week. However, main sites on the mainland and islands remain fully un-winterized and highly exposed to cold and wet weather conditions. With winter quickly approaching, there is still an urgent need for authorities to implement winterization plans through-

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 30 October 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 30 October 2016



out government-run sites to ensure the wellbeing and safety of asylum-seekers.

Tragedies at Sea - Mediterranean Death Toll Soars in 2016

With the end of 2016 nearing, deaths of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean so far this year have hit a record high. As of 30 October 3,949 lives had been lost in 2016, surpassing the 3,771 reported for the whole of 2015. The high death rate is a reminder of the importance of continuing robust search and rescue capacities – without which the fatality rates would almost certainly be higher. Further addressing this situation while ensuring functioning asylum systems remains a policy challenge for many countries, but measures to save lives are available and UNHCR urges all countries to do more in this regard. Significantly expanding the availability of regular pathways for refugees to reach safety needs much greater and urgent attention. UNHCR issued a [press briefing on 25 October 2016](#).

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

On 26 October eight Syrians were returned from Lesbos to Adana and transferred to Duzici. Of those transferred on 26 October, two did not apply for asylum and six had withdrawn their asylum applications. On 27 October, 41 non-Syrians were returned from Lesbos to Dikili and transferred to Kirklareli RC, majority were Pakistani nationals. Among them, 22 were returned within the scope of the EU-Turkey Statement after being issued negative decisions of their asylum claims or withdrawing their applications.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece under the EU-Turkey Statement is 695 as of 30 October.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

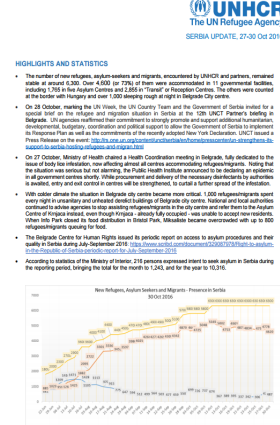
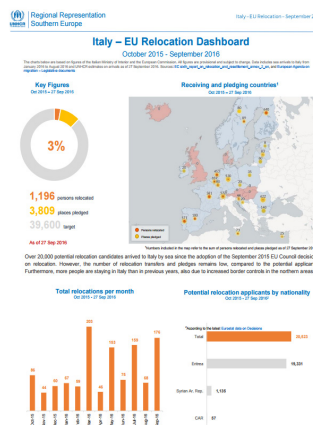
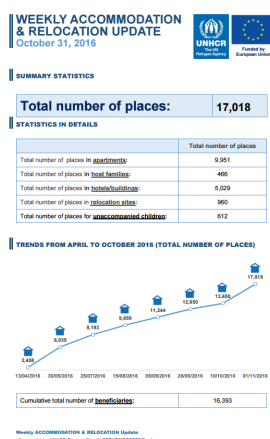
Some 6,300 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants are estimated to be in Serbia, with 73% accommodated in government facilities and the rest staying overnight in unsanitary and unheated derelict buildings of Belgrade city centre or at the Hungarian border. Close to 1,000 slept rough in the centre of Belgrade City, as temperatures begin to drop local authorities continued to advise agencies to refer refugees and migrants to the Asylum Centres instead. However, many centres are beginning to reach their capacities. A total of 208 people were staying in makeshift tents and relying on assistance provided by UNHCR, partners, NGOs, government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary. Among those, on average 38% were children, 41% men and 21% women with the majority from Syria (32%), Afghanistan (28%) and Iraq (28%).

Inside the transit zones in Hungary, UNHCR provides asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, Dublin procedures and the implications of the safe third country principle, as well as support and counselling for individuals who are subject to age assessment. The Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN) informed UNHCR that as of 02 November, the OIN will follow the general office hours in the transit zones (8:00 – 16:00) on weekdays and no admissions will take place during weekends. This is likely to further reduce the number of people admitted, which is of concern. The 24/7 presence of police and social workers will remain unchanged.

Update on Relocations

From Italy, 20 persons were relocated to Norway and on 28 October 78 persons were relocated to Portugal, bringing the total number of departures from Italy since

Key Documents from the Portal



the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,489-only 3.8% of the 39,600 target of those to be relocated by September 2017.

From Greece, there were 262 asylum-seekers relocated to EU countries including 14 unaccompanied children according to IOM. Thus far, a total of 5,112 (7.6%) asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece to other EU countries since the beginning of the relocation programme in November 2015. Last week, Switzerland, who is participating on a voluntary basis to the EU Relocation scheme, pledged a second group of 100 places, an additional number to the 130 places since September 2015. The entire number of current pledges remains low at 10,855- only 16 % of the 66,400 persons expected to be relocated from Greece to other EU Member States by September 2017.

EU Related Developments

During the reporting period, under the [EUNAVFOR Med/Operation Sophia](#) the training of the Libyan Navy

Coast Guard and Libyan Navy began. EUNAVFOR Med, launched in June 2015, is the EU naval operation taking place in the Southern Central Mediterranean with the objective of contributing to the fight against trafficking and smuggling, as well as of saving lives at sea. EUNAVFOR Med had been formally authorized to add the training of the Libyan authorities to its activities on 30 August, as a way of supporting its mandate. The first package of training activities, to be unfolded over the next three months, includes "a substantial focus on human rights and international law".

On 26 October, the EC [started](#) negotiations with Nigeria in order to conclude a readmission agreement. Readmission agreements cover irregular migrants, and therefore do not apply to asylum-seekers. According to the EC, the start of the negotiations is in line with the [Partnership Framework approach](#), for which Nigeria is considered a priority country.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

