

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
349,653

arrivals by sea in 2016*

4,699

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 21 and 27 November, 481 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece – a decrease from the 698 who arrived the previous week. So far 1,971 people have arrived to Greece in November 2016 compared to a total of 151,249 who arrived during the same month last year. Since April, 20,313 refugees and migrants have arrived to Greece, in comparison to 735,540 in the same period in 2015. As of 27 November 171,765 people have arrived by sea to Greece this year. The main nationalities include 47% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan, and 15% from Iraq and children comprised 37% of arrivals with men making up 42%, and women 21%.

During the same period in Italy, according to UNHCR estimates, 2,565 persons (including approximately 288 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived to Italy by sea – a decrease from the 3,597 who arrived the previous week. Thus far, the total number of arrivals in 2016 (170,973) have shown an 18% increase in comparison to arrival figures of 2015, where 144,205 persons disembarked at the end of November. Of those crossing to Italy, main nationalities presented are from Nigeria, Eritrea and The Gambia, with 14% of all arrivals being unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) – mostly from The Gambia, Egypt and Eritrea, compared to 7% in 2015.

The risk faced by refugees and migrants on the Mediterranean Sea continues resulting in 4,690 deaths or missing cases at sea thus far in 2016, compared to 3,771 for the whole of 2015.

Key Developments

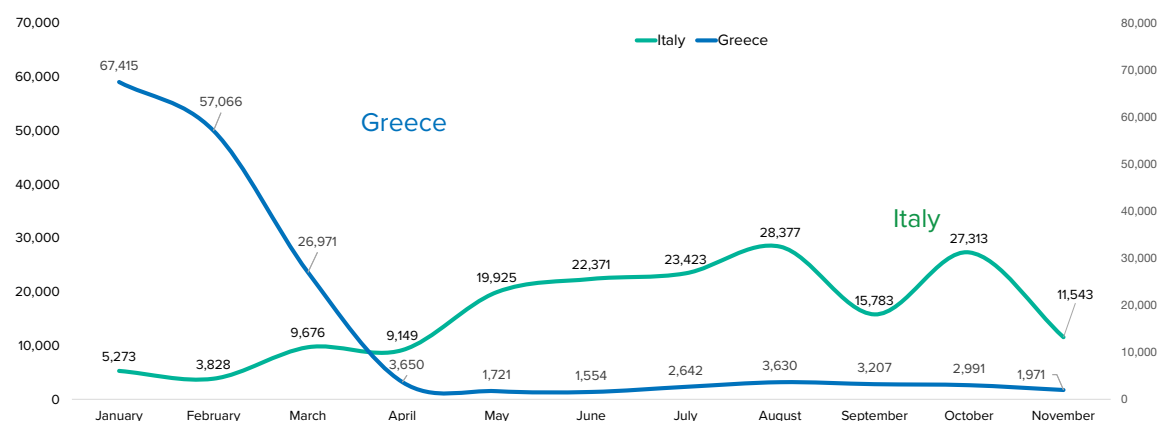
Situation in Greece

Following the incidents in Souda site in Chios Island the

prior week, shelters have been replaced and repaired, including three tents which were burned and the destroyed rub hall which has been replaced by seven winterized tents. A second damaged rub hall was repaired with wooden boards and UNHCR tarpaulins. Around 8 to 10 families chose to sleep outside Souda in the nearby carpark. Among the displaced refugee families since last incident, a group of women organized a peaceful sit-in to clarify that they are not sharing the violent approach. They placed a banner called for opening a peaceful communication channel with the host population, as well as sending a clear message of peace. During the reporting period local and international organizations providing humanitarian assistance on Chios Island issued a joint statement concerning the events occurred on 15 and 16 November. It referred to a steady deterioration of conditions within the site, and a series of violent attacks on refugees and volunteers, as well as the arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees.

On 25 November a tragic incident that resulted in the death of a 65-year-old woman and a six-year-old boy at the Moria Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) on the island of Lesbos is another reminder of the urgency to improve living conditions. The woman and young boy were killed when a cooking gas canister exploded. The mother of the deceased boy and his younger sibling were severely burned and transferred to Athens where they are hospitalized. Reportedly some people set fire to other tents at different locations within the site, and clashes broke out with the riot police that had been deployed inside the site. The fires which followed left some 400 people without accommodation, mainly families. One container was also reported to have been destroyed by fire in the detention facility. The 38 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 27 November 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 30 November 2016

Key Figures

Greece

481

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

21 November - 27 November

69

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

21 November - 27 November

Italy

2,565

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

21 November - 27 November

366

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

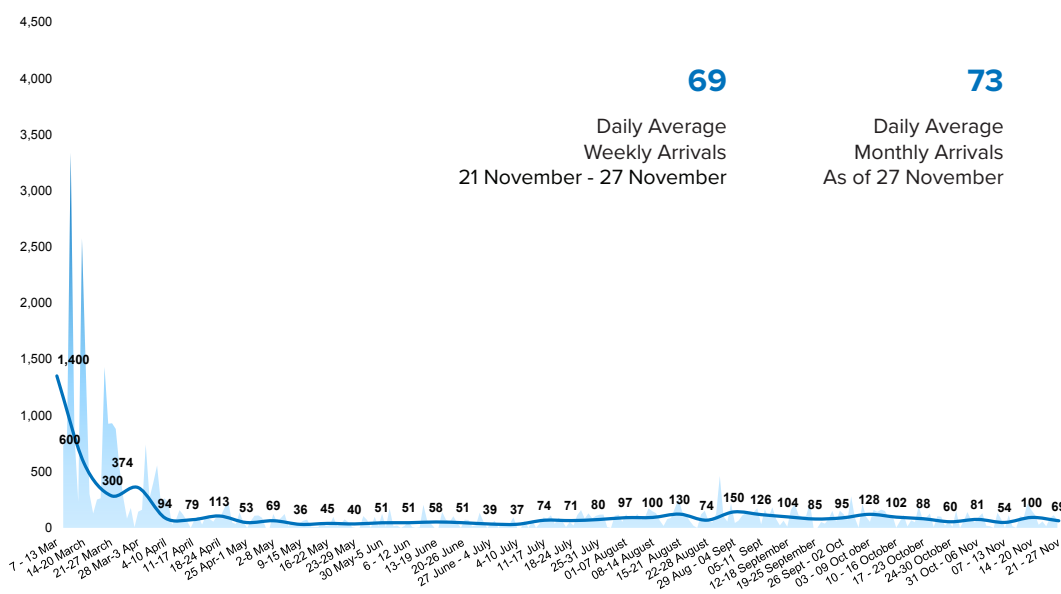
21 November - 27 November

safely transferred to other shelters on the island, under UNHCR's accommodation programme, managed by Iliaktida. Currently, there are no UASC in Moria RIC. UNHCR intervened swiftly through its partners Iliaktida, Arsis and Praxis, hosting over 200 men, women and children in apartments in Mytilene. In order to alleviate some pressure off the overcrowded sites on Lesbos, UNHCR continued to assist the authorities in transferring asylum-seekers with asylum cards to the Greek mainland. A rapid needs assessment was conducted by protection staff and an emergency package, including mattress, blanket, hygiene kit, sleeping bag was distrib-

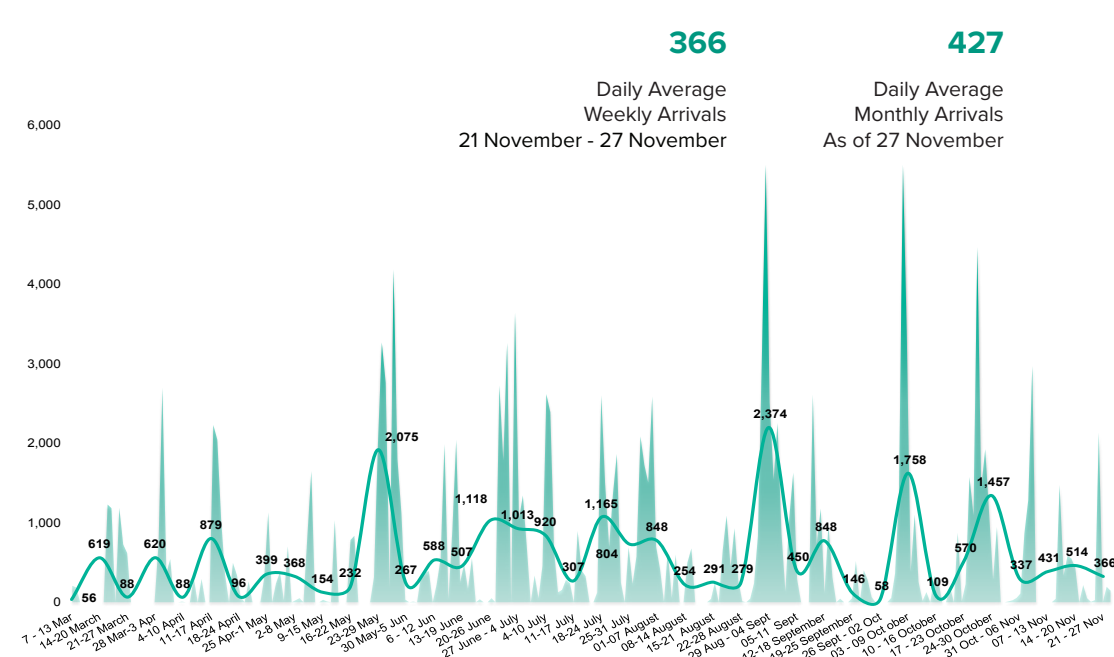
uted The UNHCR team remained present to offer assistance and psychological support to PoCs, in an effort to defuse potential tensions.

The incident triggered reactions from the Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, and the Minister of Migration Policy, Yannis Mouzalas, who expressed their condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, while highlighting the necessity to manage the crisis in a humane way. UNHCR issued a [press release](#), highlighting the need that reception and identification procedures should be carried out in a more efficient manner and in

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 27 November 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 27 November 2016



the timeframe provided by the law, so as to reduce overcrowding and the frustration felt by the people waiting on the islands, some of them are waiting for very long time, under extremely difficult conditions and with no clear future perspective in sight. To this end, UNHCR recommended the reinforcement of the Greek Asylum Service, including through support from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued its winterization intervention in line with the plan finalized in September. UNHCR is expanding support in several sites beyond the 15 initially agreed with the Government. In Attica, the upgrade of Schisto started with the delivery of 49 prefab units with the capacity to provide adequate shelter to some 250 refugees and migrants. In Northern Greece improvements in infrastructure were registered in several sites, in order to address the cold conditions. In UNHCR has offered to install 120 containers in Diavata and the works will start this coming week. UNHCR also provided family tents to replace the damaged ones in the UASC safe space. In Softex, IFRC completed the winterization of 45 tents, which were provided by UNHCR, by installing wooden flooring and tent winter kits.

Up to the 25 November, a total of 495 Yezidis were transferred by UNHCR to Assembly Hotel (143), Cornelius hotel (121) both in Chalkedona (Northern Greece) and 173 to apartments in Volvi (Athens). UNHCR coordinated the transfer of 215 individuals from Cherso to Koutsotero (Central Greece), where they were accommodated in prefab units.

The accommodation capacity in support of the Greek Government through the relocation scheme funded by the European Union established a total of 1,320 places during the reporting, reaching 19,532 places (97 per cent) by the end of the reporting period. The project has

benefitted a total of 19,174 persons of concern so far.

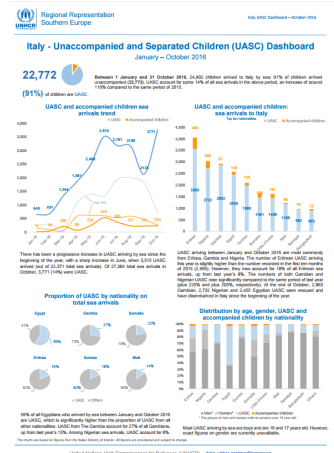
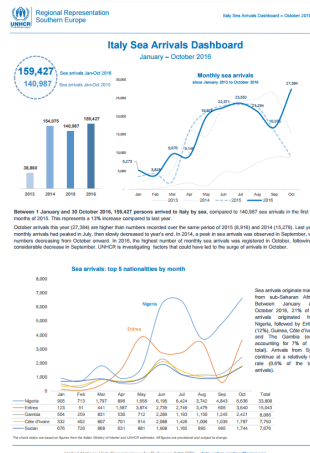
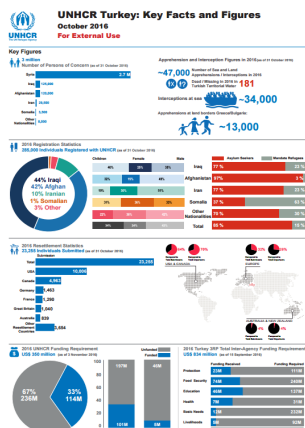
Situation in Serbia

Available government data indicates that an estimated 6,400 people remain in Serbia, of which close to 60% are women and children, and 85 % include those from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. Around 80% were accommodated in 13 governmental facilities, while the remainder slept rough, mainly in Belgrade city centre. With all governmental asylum or transit centres fully occupied, authorities requested newly registered asylum-seekers to be accommodated in Presevo or Bujanovac Reception Centres only. As of 25 November, they started referring asylum-seekers to a new Reception Centre in Dimitrovgrad (East).

With colder winter weather settling in and temperatures dropping below zero degrees Celsius, the wellbeing and safety of those not accommodated in adequate facilities is of concern. The authorities, UNHCR and partners continue to provide support such as protection assistance, legal counselling on asylum in Serbia, Non Food Items, and support on coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies in all sites throughout the country.

In Serbia, a series of tragic incidents took place during the week. On 21 November, a 26 year old man from Afghanistan was killed and another two severely injured in a knife fight between the group and smugglers in Belgrade city centre. Media reported that four foreign men were charged with aggravated murder and placed in detention. Two tragic incidents also took place at Subotica train station (North). A young man from Afghanistan passed away on 26 November after suffering serious burns on 21 November due to an electric shock from a wire on top of a train wagon. Also on 21 November, six refugee/migrant men called for help from a sealed train

Key Documents from the Portal



wagon at the Subotica train station, which had to be broken into by firefighters to free them. They reported that some 7-8 smugglers put them in the wagon earlier in the morning. On 25 November, a young Afghan man was found dead near the Adasevci Transit Centre (West), believed to have committed suicide. These tragic incidents highlight the risks people are willing to take, including in the hands of smugglers, and the need for safe pathways.

Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

During the reporting period, 102 people entered Hungary through the two transit zones, with the continued daily cap on weekdays of an estimated 10 individuals per transit zone admitted entry. In addition, the Hungarian Police reported 25 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 237 people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 201 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence. In the areas outside the transit zones 175 people (84 in Röszke and 91 in Tompa) are currently awaiting admission to Hungary staying in makeshift tents relying on assistance provided by UNHCR, NGOs, government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary.

Situation in Bulgaria

Tensions escalated last week at Harmanli, Bulgaria's largest reception centre for asylum-seekers, some 250 km southeast of the capital, Sofia, after the authorities introduced limited access in and out of the already overcrowded centre, citing health concerns. Asylum-seekers protested this decision and the poor conditions at the centre. This included several hundred residents throwing rocks and setting tires on fire. The police used rubber bullets and water cannon to contain the crowd. More than 300 asylum-seekers were arrested. Concerns over reception conditions and overcrowding have remained unaddressed, which fuels frustration and tensions among residents, and has led to acts of vandalism. Harmanli is seriously overcrowded, since it is hosting 3,100 asylum-seekers, of whom one third are children, when its official capacity is 2,710. In addition to being overcrowded, sanitary conditions at the centre are also concerning, with intermittent warm water supply. There are also serious challenges on provision of medical care, including lack of medicine. Moreover, there are no recreational facilities or activities for children or adults.

UNHCR issue a [press release](#) expressing concerns that this situation has prompted calls for asylum-seekers to be expelled on national security grounds. UNHCR urged

the Bulgarian government to decongest the Harmanli reception centre, improve living conditions and strengthen management of the centre. Most of all, UNHCR urges the government to establish a constructive dialogue with asylum-seekers staying in the centre. UNHCR will continue to support the efforts of the authorities to improve conditions and to work with the refugees and local communities to diffuse any tensions.

Update on Relocation

A total of 304 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week, to Finland (2), Germany (218), Lithuania (14), Malta (10), Norway (20) and Romania (40). Thus far, a total of 5,875 (8.8%) asylum-seekers against the targeted 66,400, have been relocated from Greece since the beginning of the relocation program in November 2015. During the reporting period there were 581 new pledges for Greece, (400 from France, 100 from Portugal, 100 from Netherlands and 81 from Ireland).

During the week, 45 persons were relocated to the Netherlands from Italy, bringing the total relocated from Italy since the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,802 persons (European Commission [data](#) as of 28 November). This corresponds to 4.5% of the 39,600 target.

EU Related Developments

Malta released an [outline of their priorities](#) for their upcoming Presidency of the Council of the EU (January-June 2017), which include migration. In particular, Malta will seek to strengthen and streamline the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), advance discussions on the revision of the Dublin Regulation, endeavour to transform EASO into a well-functioning EU Asylum Agency, continue supporting relocation, and focus on cooperation with non-EU countries.

On 24 November, Members of the European Parliament (MEP) adopted a non-binding [resolution on EU-Turkey relations](#) in plenary session, whereby they notably [call](#) for a temporary suspension of EU accession negotiations with Turkey. MEP further underlined that a reintroduction of the capital punishment by the Turkish government would lead to a formal suspension of the accession process. In the resolution, MEP also recall that Turkey has not yet fulfilled seven of the 72 benchmarks of its visa liberalization roadmap.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

