

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
19,522

arrivals by sea in 2017*

522

dead/missing in 2017*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

From 01 January until 05 March 2017, 2,627 refugees and migrants arrived to Greece by sea, compared to 121,426 for the same period last year (a decrease of 98 per cent in 2017). In the reporting period, 306 estimated sea arrivals were recorded. On 28 February 139 persons arrived while no arrivals were registered on 01 and 03 March. Compared to the previous week, the average number of daily arrivals increased from 38 to 44.

Between 01 January and 05 March 2017, 15,666 persons arrived in Italy by sea, a 71 per cent increase compared to the same period last year when 9,185 people arrived. During the week, 2,247 persons (including 220 unaccompanied and separated children - UASC) disembarked in various Sicilian ports. The majority of new sea arrivals departed from Libya and mainly originate from sub-Saharan African countries and Bangladesh, in addition to the Syrians and Eritreans. Two corpses were also disembarked, including those of a 16 year old Gambian boy and a very malnourished Ethiopian man who died on board the rescue vessel. On 02 March, 21 Iraqi and Syrian nationals were intercepted at the Trieste port in northern Italy.

Between 25 February and 03 March, over 460 persons (14 boats) arrived on the Andalusian coast (Spain). The vast majority of boats were rescued on the high seas by the Spanish Rescue Agency and were then transferred to the Spanish mainland (Malaga, Motril, Almería or Tarifa). All new arrivals departed from Morocco, 11 boats departed from the Mediterranean coast (Nador or Alhucemas), while three of them departed from the coast of Tanger and were rescued in the Strait of Gibraltar. Most sea arrivals originate from sub-Saharan African countries (mainly from Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mau-

ritania and The Democratic Republic of the Congo). 80 per cent were men, 9 per cent were women and, 11 per cent were children. UNHCR is in contact with the national police in order to promote identification of protection needs and facilitate access to asylum procedures. Sea arrivals on the Andalusian coast have increased by 200 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Key Developments

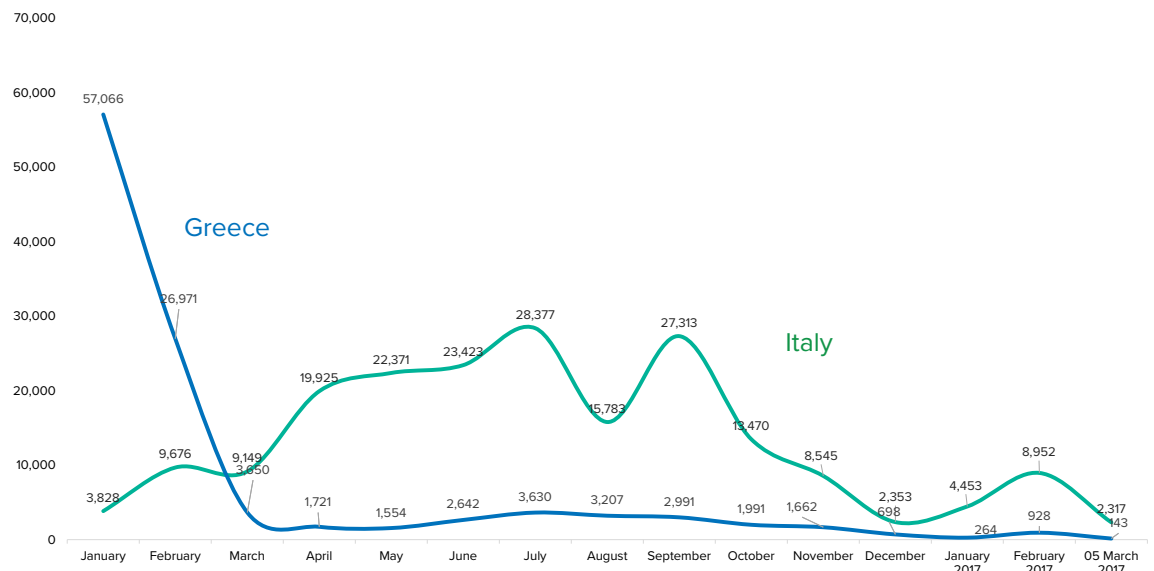
Situation in Greece

UNHCR continued supporting the Greek authorities to improve living conditions in the Registration and Identification Centres (RIC) on the islands. At RIC Moria on Lesbos, UNHCR installed 19 two-storey and single prefabricated houses out of some 70 planned. UNHCR has installed 973 prefabricated houses across Greece. Works continue to reach the target of 1,400.

UNHCR and partners completed a kitchen/cash matrix to address food security beyond the planned discontinuation of catering services in sites by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the site-by-site transition to self-catering. Following a request from DG ECHO, UNHCR convened a meeting attended by IRC, IOM, CRS, Save the Children, and Samaritan's Purse. The matrix includes detailed information for all sites on the mainland, along with an analysis of cash and kitchen readiness for the period March-May 2017. The participating agencies noted concern for persons with specific needs who cannot cook for themselves and unaccompanied children who are excluded from cash assistance. The consolidated information was shared with ECHO.

UNHCR continued assisting authorities with population movements to improved shelter. So far in 2017, UNHCR

Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month
January 2016 to 05 March 2017



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 10 March 2017

Key Figures

has assisted the transfer of 1,252 people from RIC Moria to improved accommodation on Lesbos and mainland Greece. UNHCR estimates 3,800 people are present on Lesbos, including 1,400 at RIC Moria, 828 at Kara Tepe, over 800 in private accommodation, and 230 in the temporary Olive Grove site. The current RIC Moria population is mostly single men. Some 300 people are still in individual tents or makeshift shelters.

and assisted by UNHCR and partners. Some 1,500 people remain in the three informal sites and residents continued to complain of high levels of anxiety, anger, and depression. UNHCR organized a training of prevention, response, and referring survivors of SGBV with humanitarian actors operating at Elliniko.

Greece

306

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands

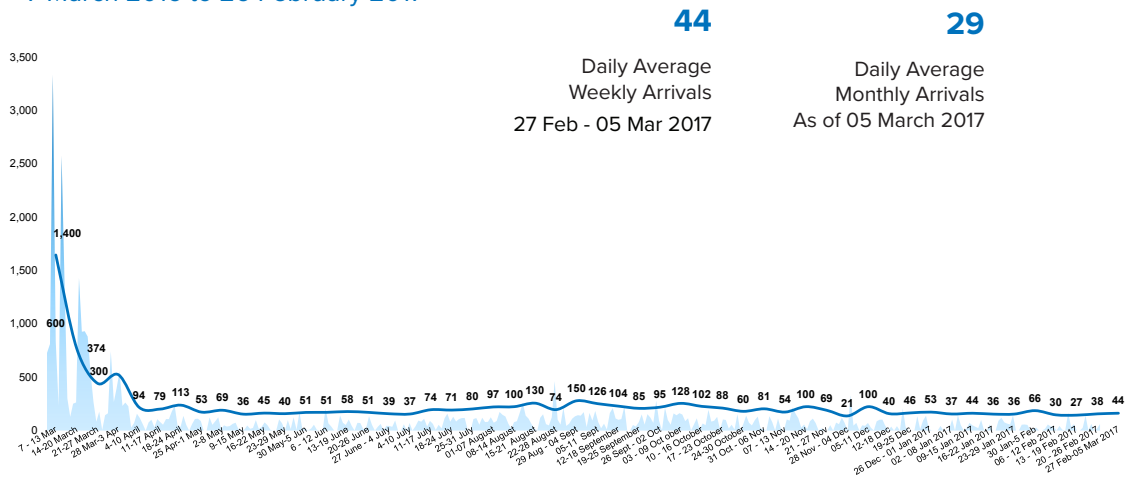
27 Feb - 05 Mar 2017

UNHCR is concerned about an increase in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases in the Elliniko sites where the security situation has been volatile. During the reporting week, seven survivors were counselled

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

A return of 10 people (seven from Bangladesh, two from Nepal, and one from Nigeria) took place on 02 March 2017 from Lesbos to Dikili. Nine of them had been rejected at second instance and one's willingness to apply for asylum had been archived. In addition to these,

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece
7 March 2016 to 26 February 2017



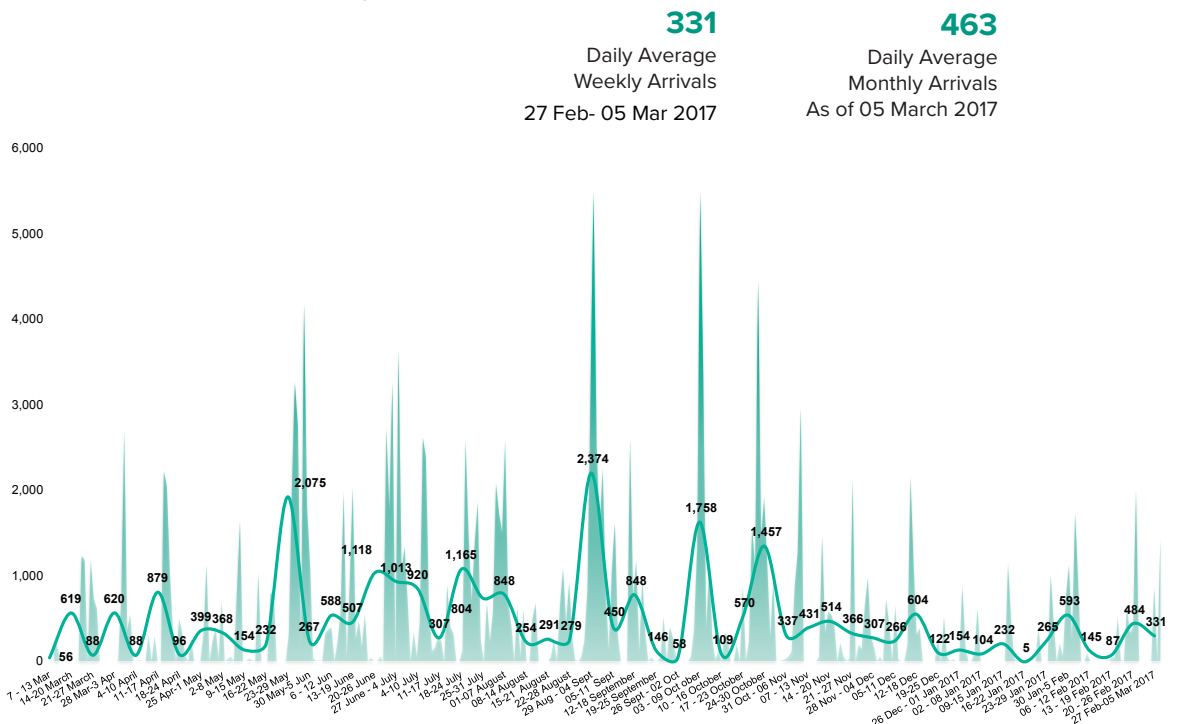
Italy

2,317

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy

27 Feb - 05 Mar 2017

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy
7 March 2016 to 26 February 2017



331

Daily Average Arrivals to Italy

27 Feb - 05 Mar 2017

seven Syrians were returned on 01 March from Lesvos to Adana. One was rejected in the first instance and did not appeal, two withdrew their registered asylum applications, three revoked their expression of will to seek asylum, and one's claim was archived.

Situation in Serbia

With milder weather, the number of new arrivals appears to be increasing: 207 were encountered/ assisted by UNHCR/partners. 2/3 arrived from Bulgaria and only 1/3 from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia is 7,806 of which 6,610 were accommodated in 17 heated government shelters. UNHCR continued supporting the rapid refurbishment capacities in the new Obrenovac centre near Belgrade. The number of refugee/migrant men/boys accommodated there rose from 574 three weeks ago to 943 of which 289 UASC boys.

Outside the Hungarian "transit zones" near Kelebije and Horgos border-crossings, 16 asylum-seekers awaited admission to Hungary. In February, 502 intentions to seek asylum in Serbia were registered: 43 per cent men, 14 per cent women and 43 per cent children. Applications were filed by: 40 per cent Afghans, 21 per cent Iraqis, 16 per cent Syrians, 8 per cent Pakistanis, and 15 per cent other countries. No substantive first-instance decisions were issued.

Over 2,900 refugees and migrants were counted at all locations in Belgrade. According to the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations (SCRM), the number of refugees and migrants still sleeping rough in derelict and inadequate buildings observed in the city centre was 940. On 03 March, UNHCR/ Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC)/SCRM counted 818 refugee/migrant men as still squatting in the city centre, profiling 357 amongst them (138 Afghani UASCs). 76 per cent were from Afghanistan and the rest from Pakistan. Some 73 per cent of those surveyed in the city centre indicated they did not wish to move to Obrenovac or another government

shelter.

Situation in Hungary

In the reporting period, 55 asylum-seekers entered Hungary through the two transit zones. In addition, the Hungarian police reported 12 apprehensions for irregular entry, 656 people were prevented from crossing the green border, and 185 people were intercepted inside Hungary and collectively expelled to the Serbian side of the fence. The daily admission rate remained at around five people per day per transit zone with no admissions over the weekends and public holidays.

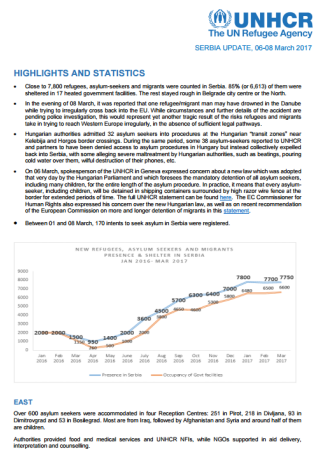
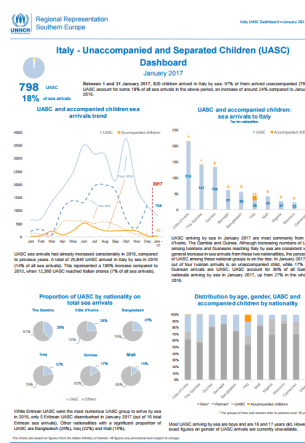
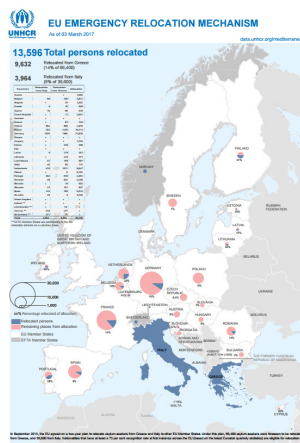
The border police, the military, the Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO), the Constitution Protection Office (CPO), and the Government's Office (providing legal information on request) maintained a regular presence inside the transit zones. UNHCR Hungary has been conducting daily visits to the transit zones, providing asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, legal aid and possibilities for appeal.

On 26 February, prison inmates started working on erecting a second fence along the Serbian border in parallel to the existing barrier. Following completion of a 10.3km section between Bácszentgyörgy and Gara, preparations are underway for a second fence near Kelebija. The 'smart fence' is scheduled to be completed by 01 May. It is equipped with night vision equipment, heat-sensing cameras and motion-sensing systems.

Situation in Bulgaria

As of 02 March 2017, there are 3,206 people registered at the State Refugee Agency (SAR) centres. From 01 January to 02 March 2017, 119 people (mainly from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iran) were apprehended for irregular entry from Bulgaria (previous week, the total reported was 89). Another 1,078 people (mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq) were apprehended for attempting to irregularly exit the country, mostly towards

Key Documents from the Web portal



Serbia and 203 inland for irregular presence in Bulgaria.

There is a decrease in the number of irregular entries as compared to the same period of 2016. While from 01 January – 03 March 2016 there were 1,162 apprehensions at the entry points in Bulgaria, there were only 119 for the same period in 2017.

Update on Relocation

In the reporting period, 260 asylum-seekers were relocated from Italy to Germany (184), The Netherlands (53) and Portugal (23), [bringing the total relocations from Italy since the beginning of the relocation scheme to 3,964](#) (10 per cent of the 39,600 target). No UASC have been relocated from Italy yet.

Some 46 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece to Norway (22) and Portugal (24) [bringing the total relocations from Greece to 9,632 as of 03 March](#) out of 66,400 originally foreseen to be relocated (14 per cent). There were 135 new pledges: Romania (80), Lithuania (40) and Malta (15).

European Union Developments

On 28 February, the General Court of the EU [dismissed](#) three individual actions against the EU-Turkey Statement highlighting that it lacked jurisdiction to assess the legality of an act which had not been adopted by one of the EU institutions (but by its Member States) and which had been published in the form of a press release. The General Court also noted that the European Council, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission (EC) had denied that any informal international agreements had been concluded in addition to the EU-Turkey Statement.

On 02 March, the EC [released](#) the following progress reports:

- [10th Report](#) on Relocation and Resettlement. UNHCR welcomed the EC's call for renewed efforts on relocation and resettlement. UNHCR also welcomed the concrete actions proposed by the EC to reach relocation targets, as well as their call on Italy to start relocation of unaccompanied children as soon as possible, when in their best interests. Finally, it is also positive the EC's reference to the fact that the Member States' legal obligations regarding relocation will not cease after September 2017.
- [5th Report](#) on the Implementation of the [EU-Turkey Statement](#), together with an [Annex](#) on the imple-

mentation of the [Action Plan](#) and the [1st Annual Report](#) on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

- [3rd Report](#) on the [Partnership Framework](#).
- [2nd Report](#) on the Operationalization of the [European Border and Coast Guard](#).

On 02 March, the EC also released a [Revised Action Plan](#) on Return, together with a [Recommendation](#) to EU Member States on "making returns more effective when implementing the [Returns Directive](#)". UNHCR regrets the lack of priority accorded to voluntary return in the Recommendation. Additionally, UNHCR believes that the streamlining of return procedures must not be at the expense of the required safeguards and risk assessments in advance of returns, and that they should not interfere with access to the asylum procedure and asylum. A specific approach would need to be in place for children, with their best interests as key consideration. UNHCR is concerned at the emphasis placed on the expansion of detention, and reiterates that children should never be detained for migration related purposes, irrespective of their/their parents' status.

On 02 March the EC [awarded](#) EUR 20 million in emergency funding to Sweden under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The funding will be provided to the Swedish Migration Agency to increase reception and accommodation capacity.

Timeline Overview

● Highlights

