

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
316,087

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,604

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 03 and 09 October, 898 refugees and migrants crossed the sea from Turkey to the Aegean islands – a slight increase from the 668 who arrived the previous week. So far in October, 1,089 people have arrived by sea to Greece and the average number of daily arrivals this week was 95 compared to 112 last week. Most arrivals in October so far have been to Chios, Lesbos and recently Milos. As of 09 October, a total of 167,913 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea to Greece, with 48% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq.

During the reporting period, 12,307 refugees and migrants (including 1,062 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), 8.6%) arrived by sea to Italy between 03 and 09 October – an increase from the 406 who arrived the previous week. Most had departed from Libya, while smaller numbers were also recorded as having departed from Turkey, Algeria, Greece and Tunisia. As of 09 October, 144,222 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea in Italy and main nationalities include Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan. So far in October, 12,320 people have arrived in Italy compared to 8,916 that arrived in October 2015. Despite a slight increase compared to the 140,987 who arrived by 31 October 2015, overall, sea arrivals in 2016 remain in line with those registered in 2014 and 2015.

Key Developments

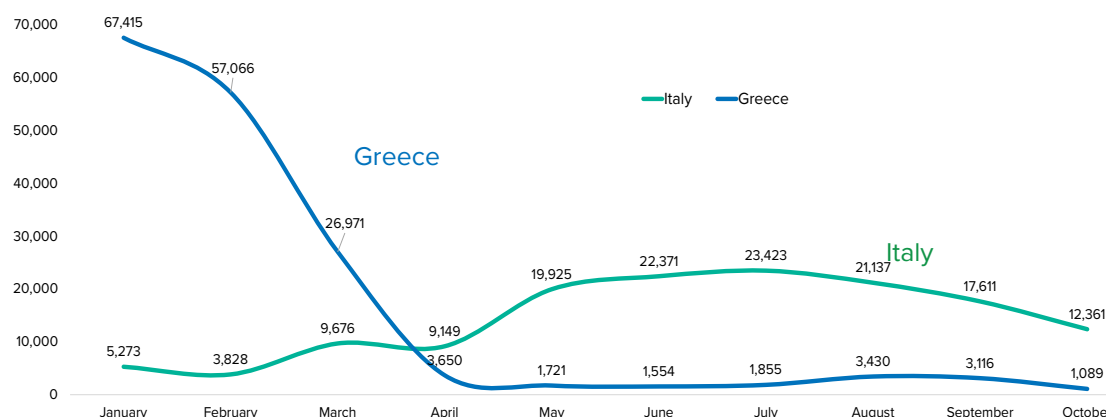
Situation in Greece

Daily arrivals to the Aegean islands continue to pose serious challenges with capacity and shelter allocation for new arrivals within the Reception and Identification Centres (RICs). This continues to contribute to increased tensions among residents. On Chios there are no further

formal shelters available, new arrivals are given camping tents provided by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) which people have been using to set up camp on the beach. A taskforce of humanitarian workers has been established to provide assistance to individuals living outside the camps on Chios. Following the recent closure of Dipethe site and given the stretched capacity of the Souda site on Chios a group of single men among residents of Souda Site began protesting as electricity in the tents was interrupted by the Municipality as consequence of the weather conditions and the group set fire to a container belonging to the Souda Management Team. The protest was disrupted by local law enforcement authorities and there were no reports of injuries, other residents were involved in assisting with clean-up efforts. Each island is addressing 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. UNHCR is advocating for transferring more vulnerable cases to the mainland in appropriate sites. Security presence is urgently needed to help improve the situation on the islands.

On 04 October, 213 people, comprising mostly of Syrians, including many families and persons with specific needs were arrested after crossing the land border with Turkey in the Evros area. People arriving by land in Evros are not treated in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement. Individuals were directed to the Fylakio Detention Centre from which they will be transferred in groups, to the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) of Fylakio for screening and relevant administrative procedures. The main challenge is the capacity of the RIC combined with the existing inappropriate detention conditions. UNHCR distributed available non-food items to the popula-

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 09 October 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 13 October 2016

Key Figures

Greece

898

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

03 October - 09 October

128

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

03 October - 09 October

Italy

12,307

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

03 October - 09 October

1,758

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

03 October - 09 October

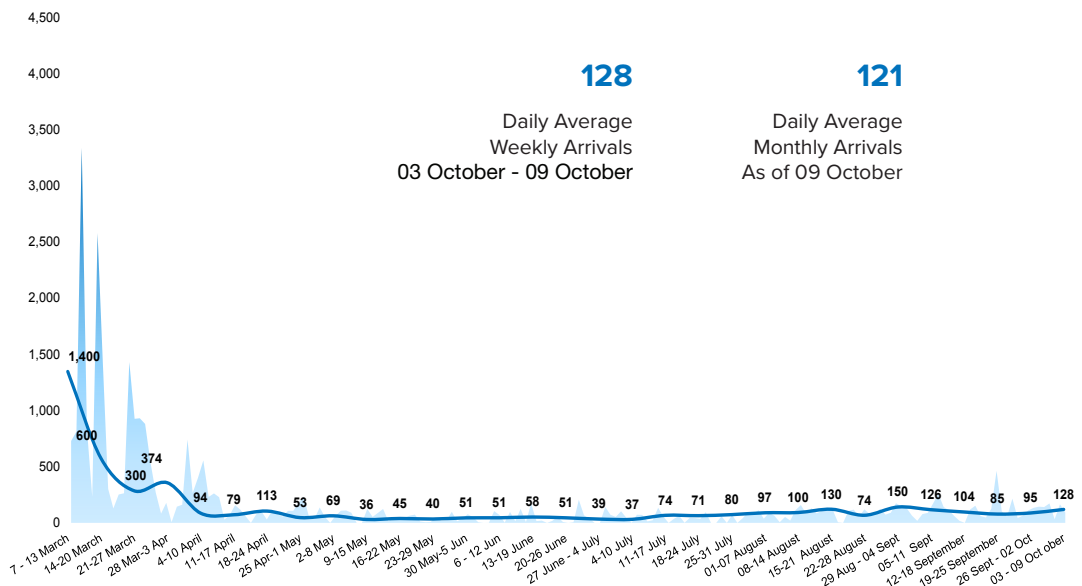
tion and is working with the Director of the RIC to ensure the gradual transfer of the population from the Police Premises to the RIC.

The slow pace of registration and processing of asylum claims together with safety risks contribute to the deteriorating situation within some sites and is of serious concern. In comparison with the previous week, an increase of protests regarding the need for improvement in the cash program, living conditions, food and other basic services was observed at Schisto, Malakasa, Skaraman-

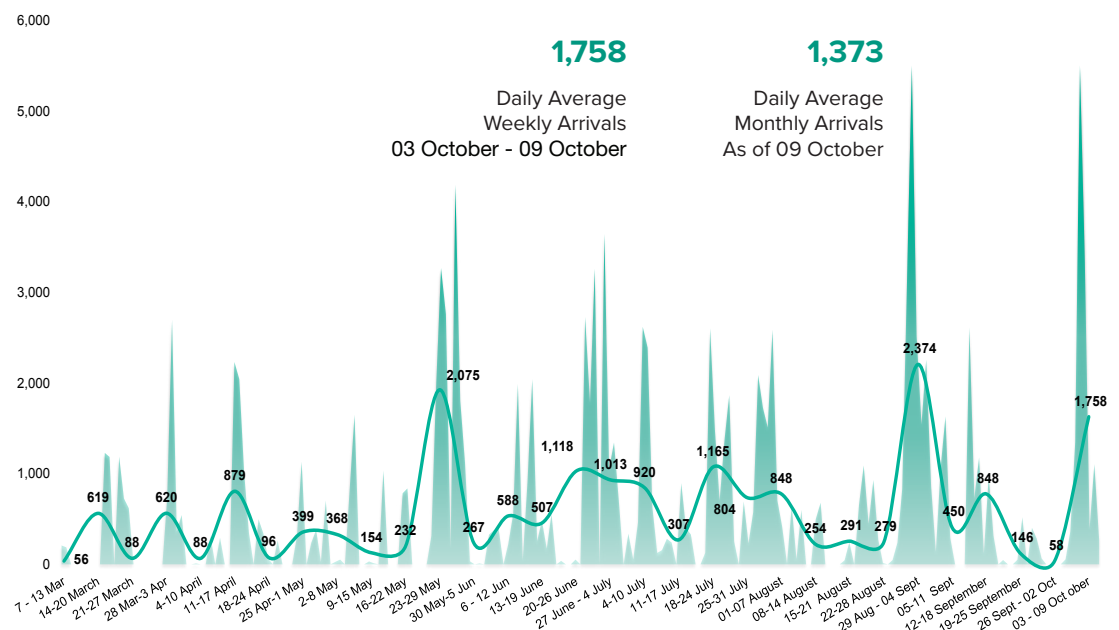
gas sites in Attica.

In Lagkadikia, two groups of refugees and migrants (a total of 34) over two different days asked to be transferred to a different sort of accommodation and UNHCR activities were consequently hampered by tensions with intervention of the police to assess the situation. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support and assistance to the Government in areas such as information dissemination, asylum counselling and site management coordination. Additionally, UNHCR has provided support to the Government's winterization efforts in order to im-

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 09 October 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 09 October 2016



prove living conditions in some sites including Nea Kavala. Presently, over 200 people are accommodated in 29 containers dispatched to Nea Kavala on 07 October.

UNHCR participated in the press conference organized by the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, who announced that it will offer all children of refugees and migrants the opportunity to attend school in order to gain knowledge and skills that match their age and to share the experiences of their peers. The registration of children from the six sites of Eleonas, Lavrio, Lagkadikia, Derveni-Dion, Konitsa and Ritsona started on Thursday 06 October to prepare for the start of school on Monday 10 October. UNHCR believes that education is a key solution for refugees and has a very positive impact not only on children, but also on the social inclusion of parents within the communities.

Latest Tragedies at Sea in Italy

During the week, a number of search and rescue operations were conducted, notably on 03 October over 5,600 persons were rescued in one day. A considerable number of bodies were recovered during rescue operations and many among those rescued arrived wounded and with fuel burns. Between 04 and 06 October, over 50 bodies were disembarked in southern Italy: deaths were reportedly caused by overcrowding, asphyxiation and drowning. The loss of life faced by refugees and migrants on Mediterranean smuggling routes has increased resulting in 3,604 deaths or missing cases at sea in the Mediterranean thus far in 2016, compared to 3,771 for the whole of 2015.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

The number of people encountered by UNHCR and

partners in Serbia was 5,800. Of those, 87% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,835 throughout the five Asylum Centres and 3,213 in Transit Centres or Reception Centres. The rest are 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 Transit Centres in the West, while in Belgrade public spaces and parks there were some 700 refugees and migrants sleeping rough outdoors, with a record high of over 1,000 counted on 06 October. On 03 October, some 200 men began a protest march towards the Hungarian border, which ended peacefully in the morning the next day, when the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migrants (SCRM) organized transport back to Belgrade. UNHCR and partners continue to provide protection counseling and informative consultations on asylum procedures, while also supporting coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies. In the areas outside the transit zones near the Hungarian border on the Serbian side around 175 people, a decrease from the 250 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. Among them, 43% are children, 36% are men and 21% are women, with main nationalities represented including 40% from Afghanistan, 26% from Syria and 26% from Iraq.

During the reporting period, 212 people entered Hungary through the two transit zones. The current admission rate remains around 30 persons in total each day, so many asylum-seekers wait a month or more. The low admission rates lead many of them to resort to smugglers or attempt to cross the border irregularly on their

Key Documents from the Portal



1 October 2016

GREECE: ACCOMMODATION FOR RELOCATION PROJECT FACTSHEET

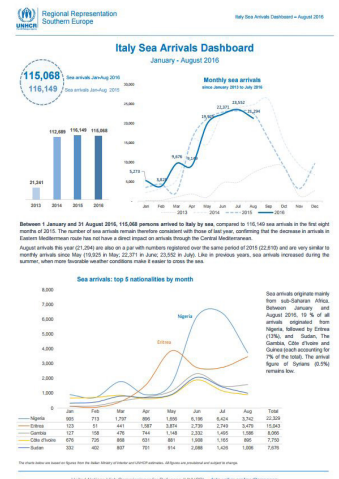
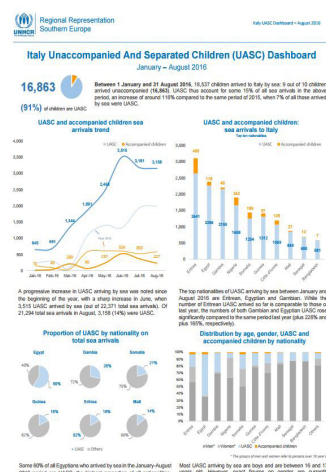
As part of the EU-funded project, UNHCR is assisting the development of the relocation programme in Greece as well as for developing refugee reception capacity.

Highlights of September

- The accommodation capacity to support the relocation programme funded by the European Union reached 13,036 places as of 30 September, representing 85 per cent of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016. The monthly number of places made by EU Member States from Greece reached a new high of 1,435, after a period of operation since September 2015. The monthly average for the last three months was 1,395. Currently, only Lithuania (100% per cent) and Ireland (100% per cent) achieved and exceeded their targets, while the other eight commitments without the last Member States mentioned remains a modest 25 per cent.
- On 1 September, the CEO of IEA, Nourdin M. Per Haggens, visited one of the apartments managed by partner AGORA, Municipality of Athens, the shared 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 M. Carsten Star with the Danish delegation, visited one of the apartments managed by partner PHASE, one of the relocation candidates. PHASE, 38 people provided the English translation to be extended family of seven.
- On 20 September, as part of the European Cultural Heritage Days programme, 31 beneficiaries of the Accommodation for Relocation project in last reporting period went on an excursion to the Catholic Art Museum, the English and Arabic language classes, and the cultural and social centre in the city of Athens. The 145, one of the participants, "had a very good time and was very happy to be in the centre and see and work in the cultural centre and see the city of Athens."

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- 13,036 accommodation places operational for relocation candidates and relocation centres in Greece
- 14,196 beneficiaries (Cumulative number of arrivals and beneficiaries, including those in Member States and ongoing relocation centres)
- 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
- 4,563 persons left Greece to other EU countries under the relocation scheme
- 488 places for unaccompanied children (UAC) established



own which is of serious concern. UNHCR is providing 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 provide assistance to the people in the waiting areas outside the transit zones.

During the week, Hungarian police reported 14 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 142 people were prevented from irregularly crossing the border and another 355 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border fence.

While voter participation in the 02 October referendum did not meet the threshold to make it valid, the Hungarian Government will submit a constitutional amendment to the Parliament to establish that resettlement or relocation can only be done based on individual assessment and approval by the Hungarian authorities.

[Update on Relocation](#)

From Italy, 10 asylum-seekers were relocated to Malta (5) and Croatia (5). Since the adoption of the relocation scheme, a total of 1,268 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, 07 October](#)).

From Greece, there were 612 asylum-seekers relocated or scheduled to be relocated during the week. Thus far, a total of 4,637 (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 81 pledges have been made by EU Member States, including those made by Estonia which pledged 21 places during the reporting period.

The accommodation capacity in support of the relocation program funded by the European Union established 197 new places as of 09 October, reaching a total of 13,233 (66 % of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners) by the end of 2016. A total of over 14,420 persons have benefitted from the program since November 2015.

[Update on Readmissions from Greece to Turkey](#)

Readmissions continue under the Greece-Turkey bilateral readmission agreement, with 55 non-Syrians readmitted on 05 October 2016 from Lesbos to Dikeli by boat, including 46 cases of rejected applications (first and second instance). On 06 October, 10 Syrians were readmitted from Mytilene to Adana.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece is 643 as of 09 October.

[EU Related Developments](#)

On 04-05 October, the EU and government of Afghanistan co-hosted the Brussels [Conference](#) on Afghanistan, which brought together 75 countries and 26 international organizations (including UNHCR). Participants [endorsed](#) the reform agenda presented by the Afghan government and committed to ensuring continued international political and financial support for Afghanistan.

On 06 October, the European Commission officially [launched](#) the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) [Agency](#), with a launch event at the Bulgarian external border with Turkey. Building on the foundations of the [Frontex](#) Agency, the EBCG Agency will, among other tasks, closely monitor the EU's external borders, provide operational and technical support to Member States, support search and rescue operations and play an enhanced role in return operations. While the Agency is now legally operational, it will be further rolled out over the next months. For example, its rapid reaction pool and the rapid reaction equipment pools will only be operational in December 2016, and its return pools in January 2017. In UNHCR's view, the establishment of the EBCG Agency should notably help to eliminate gaps in accountability in terms of compliance with fundamental rights and international protection obligations.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

