

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
332,492

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,930

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

During the week of 17 to 23 October, 613 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece from Turkey – a slight decrease from the 808 that crossed the previous week. So far in October, 2,419 people have arrived – an average of 113 per day in comparison to the 103 per day on average that arrived in September. As previously observed during the month of October, Samos received the majority (53%) of new sea arrivals with 328 recorded arrivals during the week, followed by Lesbos with 116 and Chios with 64 arrivals. As of 23 October, 169,243 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece – main countries of origin of those who arrived in Greece remain the Syrian Arab Republic (47%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (15%). Of these, 42% were men, 21% women and 37% children.

In the same week, according to UNHCR estimates, 3,992 refugees and migrants arrived by sea to Italy, including approximately 426 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) – Libya continues to be the main point of departure. As of 23 October, 149,117 persons arrived by sea, compared to 140,987 persons disembarked at the end of October 2015. This is a recent increase compared to sea arrivals in 2015. As of 21 October, 21% of arrivals have been from Nigeria, 13% from Eritrea and 7% each from Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea. According to the latest data provided by the Ministry of Interior, 19,429 UASC have arrived to Italy by sea in 2016 compared to 12,360 in 2015.

Key Developments

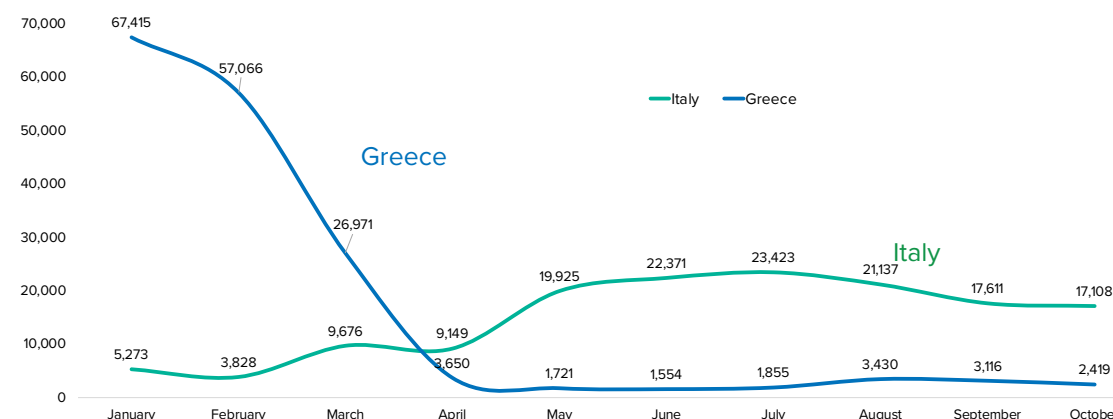
Situation in Greece

With an average of 108 daily arrivals so far in October, Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the islands continue to be overcrowded. On Lesbos, tensions

are on the rise among residents of Moria RIC due to overcrowding, continued delays in registration, lack of information on asylum claims, and inadequate living conditions. In the early morning hours of 24 October, Asylum Service buildings at Moria RIC were set on fire as a group of people protested over the long stay and delays on the examination of asylum applications. A fire brigade and riot police arrived on the scene to extinguish the fire and restore order. Serious damage was caused to about eight mobile offices, there were no reports of any injuries. On Samos, capacity is also overstretched and authorities have resorted to hosting some 300 people in tents within a fenced off extension of the RIC. UNHCR in coordination with Greek authorities (KEPOM) continued to organize the transfer of fully registered and declared admissible asylum-seekers from the islands to the mainland. Host communities and asylum-seekers on the Aegean Islands have repeatedly raised concerns over the increased tensions. Improved reception conditions on the islands, acceleration of transfers, swifter registration and processing of asylum claims along with regular information provision and security presence are urgently needed to help improve the situation on the islands.

Taking into account recent unrest and protests in sites on the mainland and islands, UNHCR remains concerned about the security and safety situations within the sites for residents and humanitarian workers alike. In addition to improvement of security measures and addressing the underlying causes UNHCR continues to advocate with the Greek Reception and Identification Service (RIS) for the strengthening of the identification and management of cases involving individuals with specific needs including Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and UASC cases in various sites. Effective strategies coupled with constant security presence need to be put

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 23 October 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 27 October 2016

Key Figures

Greece

613

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

17 October - 23 October

88

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

17 October - 23 October

Italy

3,992

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

17 October - 23 October

570

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

17 October - 23 October

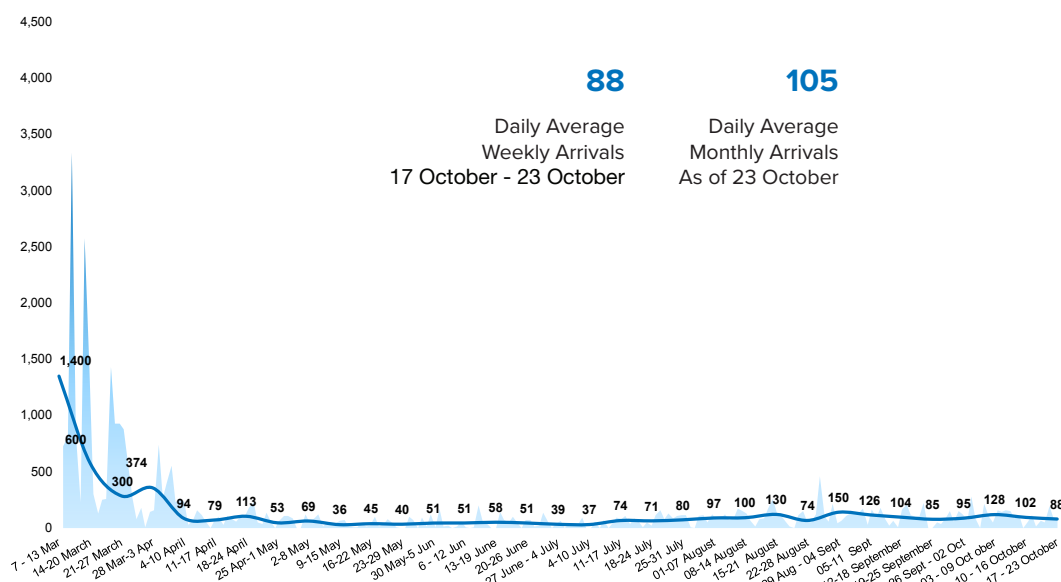
in place for SGBV prevention and response in the centres and sites managed by the authorities.

UNHCR and NGOs have raised concerns in regards to the need of following relevant procedures connected to the transfer of UASC to and from their place of temporary residence for the full registration of their applications for asylum, following an individual authorization/order from the local Public Prosecutor. In Central Greece, an issue of concern continues to be that of the separation of larger families for registration appointments with the Asylum

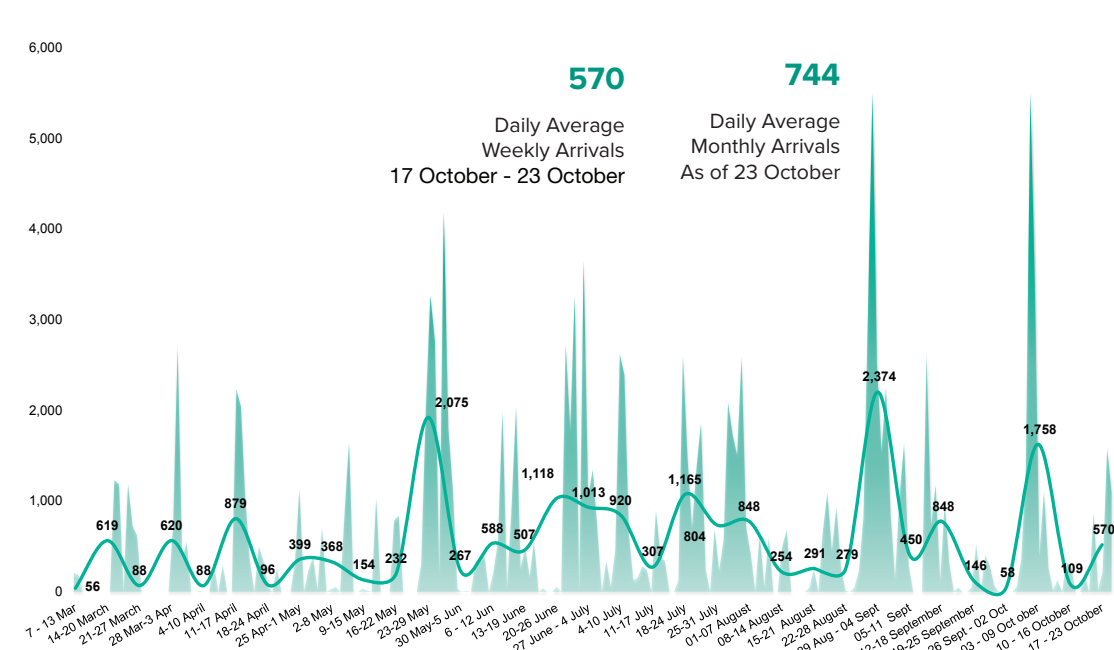
Service. UNHCR has intervened by informing the Asylum Service of necessary corrections in respect of the appointments. Alongside partners in the field, UNHCR continues to conduct information sessions for asylum-seekers on topics including asylum procedures. UNHCR liaises with the Asylum Service on questions that arise in these sessions including those related to appointments.

The accommodation project in support of the relocation program funded by the European Union established 643 new places as of 23 October, reaching a total of 14,322

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 23 October 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 16 October 2016



(71 % of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016). Over 15,000 persons have benefitted from the program since November 2015.

With winter quickly approaching, there is still an urgent need for authorities to implement winterization plans throughout government-run sites to ensure the well-being and safety of asylum-seekers. So far construction work for winterization is underway in Nea Kavla and planned for sites in Lagkadikia, Chorygi, Schisto, Filipiada Alexandria and most likely Kara Tepe and Moria. In preparation for winter, [UNHCR has started to deliver over 200,000 winter items](#) to up to 38,000 asylum-seekers on the mainland and islands. In addition, UNHCR is working on infrastructural upgrades such as the provision of heating and continues to offer support to the Greek Government regarding winterization needs. In Katsikas 60 prefab housing containers were installed, while in Agia Eleni construction works will be finalized in one month with a capacity to allocate an estimated 120 people.

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

UNHCR has expressed its concern and requested clarification from the Greek authorities regarding the return of two groups of people to Turkey on 20 and 21 October. In the first instance, 10 Syrian nationals were returned by plane to Adana, Turkey on 20 October despite having declared their intention to seek asylum at the RIC in Leros. The second instance involved the return of 59 persons by ferry to Dikili in Turkey on 21 October. Among them were 42 persons, comprised mainly of Iraqi and Afghan nationals, who had arrived in Pylos (South Peloponnese) on 08 October. UNHCR did not have access to those returned on 21 October and cannot confirm whether the individuals had access to asylum procedures.

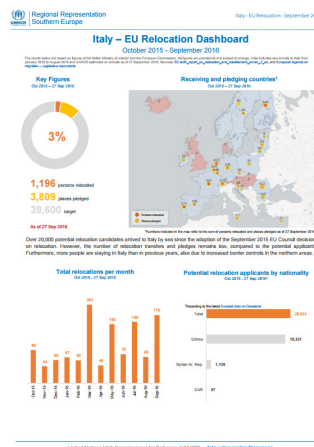
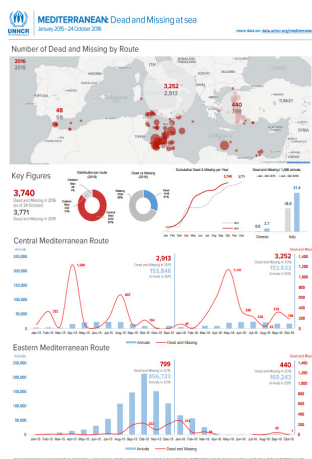
The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece under the EU-TUR Statement is 687 as of 23 October.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

Some 6,300 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants are estimated to be in Serbia, with 77% accommodated in government facilities and the rest staying overnight in Belgrade city centre or at the Hungarian border. While a slight decrease in the number of refugees and migrants present during the day was observed, close to 1,000 slept rough in the centre of Belgrade City. Most were from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and Iraq. The Asylum Centre (AC) of Krnjaca continued sheltering around 1,000 refugees, asylum-seekers or migrants. In the north, the number sleeping at the two border sites and Subotica Transit Centre remained stable with some 340. In the areas outside the transit zones where weather conditions are deteriorating, some 150 people waited for admission to Hungary 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, 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. UNHCR also informs single men detained at the accommodation section in the transit zones about their right to appeal, to request legal aid, and to submit additional information in writing within three days of their interview with Hungarian authorities about the reasons for not seeking asylum in Serbia. In coordination with UNHCR Serbia, UNHCR Hungary also coordinates refer-

Key Documents from the Portal





EUROPE'S REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE #31
September 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 30 September 2016, some 303,838 people had crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. During the reporting period, the trend in sea arrivals through the Eastern Mediterranean was similar to those in August, with 1,080 people arriving to Greece. As of 30 September, 132,043 persons had arrived by sea to Italy in 2016, compared to 132,071 at the end of September 2015.
- In Serbia, the situation in the north at the border with Hungary continued to stabilize, with less than 150 asylum-seekers camping in the open on the Serbian side of the border. This compares to a peak of over 1,000 in mid-July. In addition, a total of 5,700 refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers were accommodated in government facilities, including in the Asylum Centres, four Transit Centres and one Reception Centre.
- As refugees and migrants were increasingly prevented from moving onwards from Italy, numbers at border points grew in Ventimiglia on the French border and Corone on the Greek border, with sheltering full capacity or more.
- The joint 2016 winners of [UNHCR's Humanitarian Award](#), Konstantinos Miliadis and his wife, Evdokia, were awarded the award for their role in running 'Mikros village', a community-run accommodation area on the Greek island of Lesbos, which has been an official emergency shelter since 2015.

USD 665.9M
Total aid requested by UNHCR's European Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans in the course of the reporting period.

USD 438.8M
Funding received by UNHCR's European Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans in the course of the reporting period.

PRIORITIES

- Basic material needs and shelter, including provision of winter clothing, blankets, food, and other necessities.
- Healthcare, including provision of medical services, including mental health services, and provision of medical supplies.
- Legal aid, including provision of legal aid, including provision of legal aid, including provision of legal aid.
- Language training, including provision of language training, including provision of language training.
- Employment, including provision of employment opportunities, including provision of employment opportunities.
- Integration, including provision of integration services, including provision of integration services.

als for admission to the transit zones for asylum-seekers who miss their turn to enter due to reasons beyond their control.

[Update on Relocations](#)

On 29 September 2016, the Council of the EU adopted a [decision](#) to amend the [second relocation decision](#) (22 September 2015). The amendment enables Member States to use the 54,000 unallocated places of the second relocation decision to legally admit Syrian nationals present in Turkey into the EU through resettlement and other pathways of admission. Such admission can take place under any national or multilateral legal admission scheme for persons in need of international protection, except the resettlement scheme foreseen by the [20 July 2015 Council conclusions](#). According to the [European Commission](#), the amendment will support the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.

From Italy, 46 asylum-seekers were relocated to Romania (31) and Malta (15). Since the adoption of the relocation scheme, a total of 1,391 persons (3.5% of the 39,600 target) have been relocated from Italy ([latest EC data, 21 October](#)).

From Greece, there were 134 asylum-seekers relocated during the week. Thus far, a total of 4,865 (7.3%) 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 10,755 pledges since the EU relocation scheme began in September 2015 have been made by EU Member States, including those made by Spain which pledged 400 places during the reporting period.

[EU Related Developments](#)

[At the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 October](#), EU Foreign Ministers [welcomed](#) the progress achieved so far under the Partnership Framework with the five priority countries (Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia). They suggested to progressively extend the scope of the Partnership to include additional countries in the Middle-East and Asia. EU Foreign Ministers also adopted decisions regarding Partnership priorities with [Lebanon](#) and [Jordan](#).

On 18 October, the EC presented its first [progress report](#) on the implementation of the [Partnership Framework](#) with third countries to “better manage migration”. According to the EC, the most significant achievements so far have been the following: (i) increased coordinated approach and strategic joint planning between the EU institutions and Member States, (ii) high-level visits to priority countries, (iii) proposal for key initiatives such as the External Investment Plan to encourage investment in Africa and the EU Neighborhood and the Union Resettlement Framework to ensure orderly and safe pathways to Europe for persons in need of international protection. At the 20-21 October [European Council](#), EU Leaders discussed trade, relations with Russia and [migration](#), with a specific focus on the external aspects of migration policies. As part of the discussions on the Central Mediterranean route, EU Leaders highlighted the importance of cooperating with countries of origin and transit, including on return and readmission, and stated that the necessary leverage to foster such cooperation could be applied by means of relevant EU policies and tools, including development and trade. They also reiterated the importance of tackling the root causes of migration, and called upon more global responsibility-sharing. When focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean route, leaders called for a further implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, by accelerating the pace of returns to Turkey, deploying more experts under EU Agencies to Greece and making further progress on all commitments under the EU-Turkey Statement, including visa liberalization for Turkish citizens. Additionally, leaders called for more efforts on the resettlement and relocation schemes, including for UASC, and further work on the reform of the Common European Asylum System. EU leaders will revert on the latter at the December 2016 European Council.

On 20-21 October, a [G6 meeting](#) of Interior Ministers took place in Rome, Italy. It gathered the Interior Ministers from Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Spain and the UK, EU Commissioners Avramopoulos (Migration and Home Affairs) and King (Security Union), as well as representatives from EASO, FRONTEX, IOM, Interpol and UNHCR (with attendance of the High Commissioner). Migration was on the agenda, together with security, cybersecurity and terrorism. [Media reports](#) indicate that Italy, France and Germany committed to significantly step up return and readmission.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

