

EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



© UNHCR/Paul Wu

Resettled Syrian family Maisaa and her two children having fun in the playground near their new home in Armagh, Northern Ireland. The family were resettled to safety in Northern Ireland from Lebanon under the UK's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which aims to bring 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees by 2020.

TRENDS AND KEY FIGURES

In February, just under 3,900 refugees and migrants entered Europe via Italy, Greece and Spain, less than half the number that entered in January. With lower numbers of people crossing from North Africa to Italy by sea compared to last year, the route to Spain experienced the most movement of the three Mediterranean routes with over 1,500 arrivals, followed by the route to Greece with over 1,200 and less than 1,100 to Italy.

In **Italy**, the number of refugees and migrants arriving by sea in February (almost 1,100) dropped 88% compared to last February (8,900). This was the lowest number of arrivals by sea via the Central Mediterranean route since late 2013. Of those crossing the sea in February, approximately 56% departed from Libya. While departure numbers from the Libyan coast are lower in general, the Libyan Coast Guard has reported rescuing or intercepting over 700 persons in February. As of the end of February, arrival numbers by sea to Italy are 61% lower than in the first two months of 2017. The primary nationalities that have arrived by sea in February are Tunisians (42%), Eritreans (12%) and Nigerians (11%).

In February, over 1,200 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in **Greece** compared to almost 1,100 whom arrived in the same period in 2017 (a 9% increase). Persons arriving in Greece in February mainly originated from the Syrian Arab Republic (39%), Iraq (29%) and Afghanistan (15%). As of the end of February, sea arrivals to Greece have increased 16% compared to the first two months of 2017. In addition, the number of persons rescued or intercepted after departing from the Turkish coastline has more than doubled this year compared to the same period last year. At the land border, higher numbers continued to cross with 528 arrivals recorded in February compared to 222 in February last year. So far, 1,093 persons

Mediterranean
11,900
arrivals in 2018 ¹

422

estimated dead/missing in 2018 ¹

Greece
2,900

2,364	1,633	1,256
Dec	Jan	Feb

Italy
5,300

2,327	4,189	1,069
Dec	Jan	Feb

Spain²
3,700

2,373	2,182	1,518
Dec	Jan	Feb

Cyprus
12

27	0	12
Dec	Jan	Feb

New asylum applications in Europe ³

724,000 applications in 2017
1,497,000 applications in 2016
1,553,000 applications in 2015

¹ data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 28 February 2018.

² Includes land and sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands

³ Sources: Eurostats for EU+ countries (Only 2017 data available and data for December is partial. All data is provisional and last updated 13 March 2018); UNHCR for Eastern and South Eastern Europe and Turkey (as of 30 June 2017).

33,700

Relocated in total ⁴
⁴ Source: [European Commission](#), as of 28 February 2018.

 from **Greece**
21,730
 (33% of 66,400)

 from **Italy**
11,940
 (30% of 39,600)

1,554

Returns EU-Turkey statement ¹²
¹² Source: [Ministry of Citizen Protection](#), Greece as of 28 February 2018.

have entered Greece via the land border with Turkey since the start of the year.

In **Spain**, just over 1,500 people crossed the land and sea borders from North Africa in February, a decrease of 14% compared to February 2017, when unusually high numbers (over 1,200) crossed the land borders. So far, the primary countries of origin of arrivals are Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic and Cote d'Ivoire. February was the deadliest month in recent years for persons crossing the sea with 71 persons believed to have drowned. Of these 47 people were believed to have died in a single incident near Melilla. So far in 2018, more than 100 people are believed to have died while crossing the sea to Spain, making this the second

ACNUR España @ACNURSpain · Feb 16
 Un equipo de @ACNURSpain presente en el desembarco de los rescatados por @salvamentogob para apoyar en la identificación de posibles casos vulnerables y personas con necesidades de protección internacional [europapress.es/andalucia/mala...](#)

Translate from Spanish



most deadly route after the sea route to Italy.

A total of 12 Syrians arrived to Cyprus in February, the first sea arrivals in 2018. Turkish authorities have reported the rescue or interception of over 300 others believed to have been trying to reach Cyprus in February.

Dead and missing: In February, an estimated 175 persons died or were presumed dead while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, with most deaths occurring during the crossing to Italy, contributing to a total of almost 400 deaths so far in 2018. The rate of deaths amongst those crossing to Italy in the first two months of 2018 was one death for every 18 persons that reached Italy from all departure points (and roughly one death for every 13 persons who crossed from Libya to Italy), compared to one death for every 29 persons who crossed in the first two months of 2017.

Relocation: According to the [European Commission](#) (EC), over 33,700 asylum-seekers had been relocated from Greece and Italy as of 16 February 2018, including 21,700 from Greece (33% of the 66,400 originally foreseen) and 11,900 from Italy (30% of the 39,600 originally foreseen).

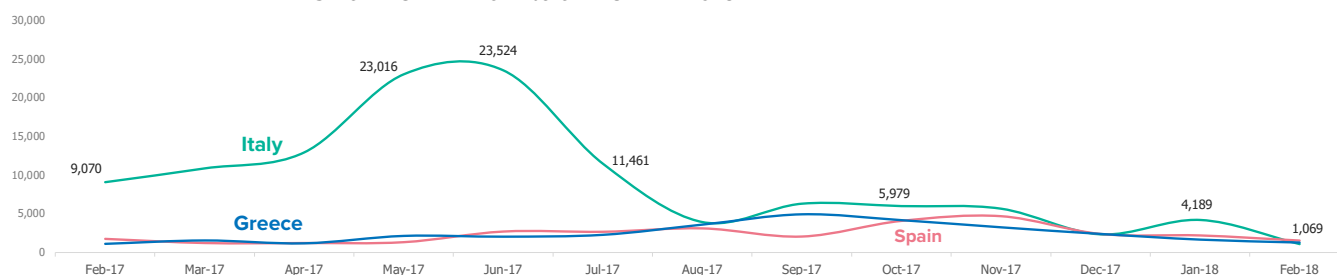
Sophie Magennis @Magennis

Following

All smiles as family relocates from Greece to Ireland. @Refugees wants States to keep up the relocations. Vital for asylum seekers and to help Greece & Italy @philipbromwell #WithRefugees @EASO @Refugees_EU

RTÉ News @rtenevs
 @philipbromwell spoke to a Syrian Kurdish family in Greece who are about to move to Ireland to start a new life | More: [bit.ly/2CzEJoc](#)

MEDITERRANEAN ARRIVALS - JANUARY 2017 to JANUARY 2018



OTHER SITUATIONS IN EUROPE

Turkey **3.9 million**

Refugees and asylum seekers ⁵

Syrian Arab Republic	3,531,000
Afghanistan	165,000
Iraq	151,000
Iran	35,000

⁵ Source: UNHCR as of 28 February 2018

Ukraine **1.8 million**

Internally Displaced Persons ⁶ and Conflict Affected Persons⁷

Refugees: ⁸	3,257
Asylum seekers: ⁹	5,498
Stateless persons: ¹⁰	35,463

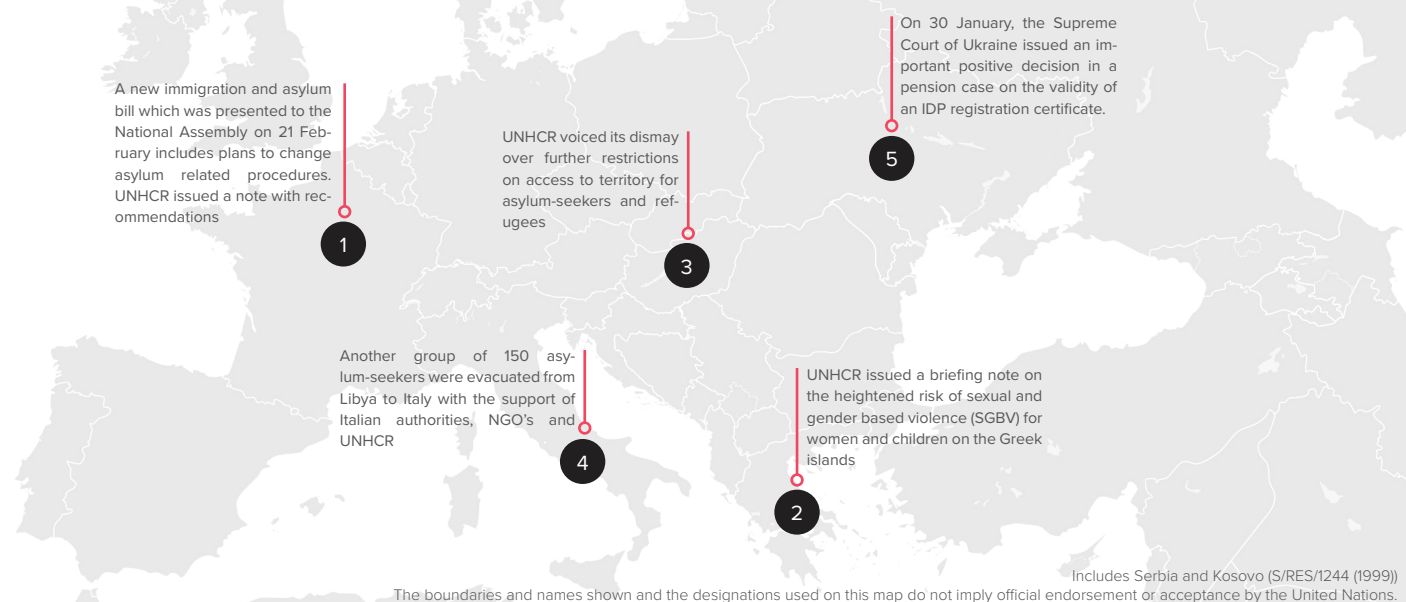
⁶ Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).
⁷ Estimated number of conflict-affected people living along the line of contact in government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

⁸ UNHCR, State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 01/01/2018

⁹ UNHCR as of 15/02/2018

¹⁰ State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 30/06/2017

KEY DEVELOPMENTS



AZERBAIJAN: On 21 February 2018, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed an order to increase the monthly subsistence allowance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) by 10% for those who receive such allowance and pay utilities. Increase in the same amount will be calculated for IDPs living in collective centres and other temporary settlement places where IDPs are not charged for utilities. UNHCR welcomes this development as a positive step in supporting IDPs to sustain themselves with means for daily needs.

BELARUS: The Belarusian Red Cross began issuing vouchers for the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, a total of 3,660 were distributed amounting to \$185,000 in humanitarian assistance. The assistance programme has begun in Minsk City and is gradually rolling out in other regions. Beneficiaries of the programme, funded by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and European Commission, have praised the programme for meeting their basic needs.

BELGIUM: The Constitutional Court has ruled on administrative fees related to admissible applications for residency permits. Whereas refugees and asylum-seekers were already exempt from this fee payable by other categories of newcomers staying in Belgium, the Constitutional Court has now ruled that stateless persons are also exempt from this fee. UNHCR had advocated for the fee waiver in the case of those with stateless status and welcomes the change announced on 22 February.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: In response to the increase of arrivals, nearly 120 registered asylum-seekers as of 28 February 2018 compared to just over 30 in the same period in 2017, UNHCR held information sharing meetings with

various agencies and ministries including the Ministry of Security, the Sector for Asylum, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police and the Service for Foreigner's Affairs. A press conference on the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees was held for representatives of 20 local and international media outlets. Furthermore, UNHCR intensified joint activities and coordinated approaches within the UN Country Team to optimize response to the increased influx of refugees and migrants in the country.

FINLAND: UNHCR raised concerns about the frequency of the use of the concept of internal flight alternative (IFA) in refugee status determination in Finland. Statistics have shown that the percentage of Iraqis receiving negative decisions has increased and the growing use of the IFA concept explains this significant shift. The Director General of the Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior has publicly defended the increased use of IFA. Meanwhile, UNHCR cautions against a broad application of the internal flight alternative in relation to persons from Iraq and Afghanistan as the IFA concept requires an individual assessment of the specific circumstances in each case.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: On 27 February, the Government adopted the draft of the new Law on International and Temporary Protection, whose approval



is pending the vote of the Parliament. UNHCR welcomes the commitment of the Government to continue improving asylum legislation, further aligning it with the international standards. As a result of an inclusive and consultative process with relevant stakeholders the latest draft includes positive changes such as lifting the restriction of family reunification for recognized refugees. However, the continued delay of family reunification for persons under subsidiary protection and limitations on freedom of movement of asylum-seekers are areas of concern.

FRANCE: A new immigration and asylum [bill](#) was presented **1** to the National Assembly on 21 February, UNHCR issued a [press release](#) with its [recommendations](#) on the new bill. Among other proposals, UNHCR welcomes the introduction of a four-year residence permit for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless persons, as well as the plan to extend family reunification. However, UNHCR emphasizes the need to ensure a fair and equitable asylum system, including for accelerated procedures, by providing legal, social and medical support throughout the asylum process. The draft law has generated criticism, including by French prominent institutions such as the State Council, "The Defender of Rights" and the National Court of Asylum, which have been on strike, with immigration lawyers also raising concerns over aspects of the draft law. Some workers at the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless People (OFPRA) equally protested on 21 February against what they consider "a departure from France's tradition of asylum".

GERMANY: The German Bundestag adopted a law prolonging the suspension of family reunification for subsidiary protection beneficiaries until 31 July 2018. From August, family reunification processes for this category of persons will be



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Following

Die Folgen der gerade beschlossenen Regelung zum #Familiennachzug? Die meisten subsidiär Schutzberechtigten werden ihre Familien auf absehbare Zeit nicht wiedersehen. Das erschwert die Integration, und spielt den Schleppern in die Hände.

resumed, but with an admission ceiling of 1,000 persons per month, which will, however, not affect hardship cases going through separate processes. While this decision is generally welcomed, UNHCR and NGOs have raised concerns on risks when posing restrictions on safe and legal pathways for family reunification.

GREECE: This month's fewer sea arrivals and continued transfers from the islands to the mainland of those authorized to depart contributed to the reduction of the population remaining on the islands to some 11,000 people. With reduced overcrowding, conditions in the reception centres slightly improved. However, the centres are still operating above their capacity in Lesvos, Chios and Samos. Important gaps remain on the islands, most recently in particular related to the lack of interpreters and availability of medical care, following the transfer of the site management response to the Government in August 2017. The protection risks are



particularly high for women and children in Samos and Lesvos. UNHCR issued a [briefing note](#) on the heightened risk of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) for women and children on the Greek islands, calling on the need for further action through specific measures. International press such as [Reuters](#), [AP](#), [AFP](#), [VOA](#), [DW](#), [Xinhua](#), [The Times](#) echoed the serious cause of concern.

In the mainland, UNHCR signed an agreement with the fifteenth municipality to join the Accommodation Scheme for asylum-seekers in rented apartments. Over 18,400 are accommodated throughout 20 cities in the mainland, islands and Crete. The residents are supported with cash assistance to cover their basic needs, along with all eligible asylum-seekers throughout Greece in sites on the mainland and islands. In February 2018, 41,387 people received cash assistance through 19,154 cards for a total of €4.13 million.

This month there were positive developments on self-reliance, social inclusion and integration of asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece. The Ministries of Labour, Health and Migration Policy (MoMP) issued a broadcast to assist Governmental agencies granting social insurance numbers to asylum-seekers and refugees. Additionally, OAED (Hellenic Manpower Employment Organization) a state agency for unemployment, announced through a press release on 28 February the revision of formal requirements to provide proof of a residential address. This development is expected to greatly facilitate the registration of unemployed asylum-seekers and refugees currently residing in sites or UNHCR accommodation thus their inclusion in national schemes promoting employability and other forms of support.

HUNGARY: In a press release, UNHCR [voiced](#) its serious **3** concerns over further restrictions on access to territory for asylum-seekers. During February, UNHCR observed that Hungary on average only allowed two asylum-seekers a day to enter through the two "transit zones" at the border with Serbia. Since asylum-seekers who at-



© UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

tempt to cross the razor-wire border fences are automatically removed, Hungary has practically closed its borders to people seeking international protection in clear breach of its obligations under international and EU law.

UNHCR also raised concerns at three new legislative proposals submitted by the Hungarian Government to the Parliament, which provide that organisations receiving foreign funding have to go through a licensing process and pay high taxes, including for activities carried out in order to provide international protection for people wishing to seek asylum at the borders of Hungary or staying in Hungary as asylum-seekers and refugees. "Seeking asylum is a fundamental human right. People should have access to seek protection and no one should be punished for helping those who seek asylum," reiterated Montserrat Feixas Vihé, UNHCR's Regional Representative for Central Europe.

ITALY: On 14 February 2018, 150 asylum-seekers (Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis and South Sudanese) were evacuated from Libya to Italy with the support of UNHCR. The group travelled on board a charter flight from Tripoli to Pratica di Mare military airport, near Rome. During



disembarkation priority was given to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other persons with specific needs. The group also included families, young women -including SGBV survivors- with children, and single men. UNHCR staff had identified the evacuees in detention facilities in Libya, while Italy staff provided the new arrivals with information on asylum and relevant procedures, while also supporting the Italian authorities in identifying those with specific needs. NGOs such as Caritas were also present upon arrival providing food and other basic needs. Following identification procedures, new arrivals were transferred to reception facilities across Italy.



UNHCR's Volker Turk @ItalyMFA Conference "A Shared Responsibility for a Common Goal" today: Amid a retrenchment into populist politics and xenophobia it is crucial that European countries ensure access to asylum



On 06 February, UNHCR's [Regional Representative for Southern Europe](#), Mr. Felipe Camargo, together with the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Mr. Volker Turk and the Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean, Mr. Vincent Cochetel, attended an inter-ministerial conference in Rome, titled "A shared responsibility for a common goal – Solidarity and security". During the conference, Italy's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Angelino Alfano, announced an allocation of an additional €80 million to Italy's €200 million Africa Fund. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretary General Thomas Greminger also participated in the 2nd Ministerial Conference where he offered the OSCE's cooperation on migration and refugee issues.

STRASBOURG: The Special Representative of the Council of Europe's Secretary General (SRSG) for Migration and Refugees, Ambassador Tomáš Boček, published his first [activity report](#) on 26 February. In the report he called for the need of "a clear, principled and holistic approach" by the Council of Europe (CoE) covering all areas of migration management. The report, notes challenges CoE Member States face ensuring that the measures they adopt to reduce migration flows and to return failed asylum-seekers also respect human rights standards. Among other pressing matters, the report also reiterated solidarity among Member States and the importance of upholding the right to apply for asylum.

SWEDEN: The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights [report](#) on protection of asylum-seekers and persons with disabilities was released following a visit of the Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Nils Muižnieks to Sweden in October 2017. The report presents several concerns and recommendations, including urging Sweden to reverse restrictions in the temporary law and restore the previous levels of protection. The Commissioner expressed concern over the increased number of UASC that have gone missing and urged Sweden to ensure that the best interest of the child is a primary consideration and that family reunification restrictions will be lifted during in 2018.

TURKEY: In February, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited Turkey accompanied by the Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe, Pascale Moreau and the Director of the Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa, Amin Awad. Discussions with Turkish officials such as, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu were held, where Grandi expressed gratitude for Turkey's major role in hosting refugees.



Grateful to Turkish Foreign Minister @MevlutCavusoglu for a constructive discussion on Turkey's role as major refugee hosting country and global humanitarian actor.



UKRAINE: In February, civilians were once again affected by shelling targeting Donetsk Filter Station which caused damage to the water supply for 345,000 civilians in the area, as well as parts of Dokuchaievsk village in the non-government controlled area of Donetsk region damaging civilian properties. Such incidents highlight the fragile humanitarian situation that directly affects civilians who are already facing hardships as a result of the continued conflict. Security risks remain high for both civilians and humanitarian responders in areas near the line of contact. Harsh weather conditions pose additional difficulties for people with winter bringing sub-zero temperatures. UNHCR continues to provide winterization assistance such as winter cash grants and heating.

 **Pablo Mateu**
 @MateuPablo

Following

Not always easy to explain the impact of eastern #Ukraine conflict on civilians. Three elderly women came out in the snow in Kurdumivka, #Donetsk region to thank @UNHCRUkraine for #shelter support and ask for an end to a conflict forgotten by many in Europe #UkraineNotForgotten



The Supreme Court issued an important positive decision ⁵ in a pension case brought by UNHCR’s partner NGO “The Right to Protection” (R2P) in the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk on the validity of an IDP registration certificate. The Supreme Court concluded that court the Cabinet of Ministers resolutions cannot be used as an argument for cancelling a pension, as the Law on Pensions has a higher legal force. UNHCR is looking into how the decision may be used as a precedent.

“The Donbass reintegration law” came into force on the day following its publication on 23 February 2018. The adopted version of the law is an important development for those affected by the conflict compared to earlier drafts which contained vague clauses. The law now includes Ukraine’s positive obligations towards persons living in the non-government-controlled areas stating that birth/death certificates issued by the de facto authorities can be attached to applications to the civil registry in Ukraine. UNHCR is still reviewing the law’s implications for protection and humanitarian action.

THE UNITED KINGDOM: On 09 February, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited the UK where he delivered a [keynote speech](#) on Refugees and Migration in Cambridge as part of the [Darwin College Lecture Series](#). On 23 February, the Department for International Development-UNHCR Strategic Dialogue was held and led by UNHCR’s Deputy High Commissioner (DHC), Kelly Clements. Topics covered included region-specific issues in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, policy issues, the Comprehensive Refugee Framework ([CRRF](#)) and UNHCR’s Change Management process.

EU-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

On 5 February, UNHCR held its annual Strategic Dialogue with EU counterparts. UNHCR’s delegation was led by UNHCR’s DHC Kelly Clements. The first half of the Dialogue took place with the Directorate General (DG) for Civil Pro-

 **Kelly T. Clements**
 @KellyTClements

Following

In #Brussels today. Standing together #WithRefugees and @MoniquePariatEU . #EU is one of our most valuable partners: @eu_echo, @europeaid, @eu_eeas, @eu_near and @EUHomeAffairs. Int’l cooperation remains indispensable to find solutions for over 65 million forcibly displaced.



tection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), while the second included a wider range of EU actors, with also the European External Action Service (EEAS), the DG for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), the DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) and the DG for Migration and Home Affairs (HOME). Fruitful discussions took place on a wide range of issues, including protection, humanitarian and development nexus,

operational priorities, humanitarian programming, the CRRF and the Global Compact on Refugees and Global Compact on Migration, innovations such as digital identity and cash, mixed migration, and internal displacement.

On 23 February, EU Leaders gathered in Brussels, Belgium for an [informal European Council](#). While EU Leaders also focused on institutional matters, the meeting provided a key opportunity to discuss the political priorities of the post-2020 EU budget – the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). EU Leaders agreed that migration would be one of the priorities for the next MFF, and committed to diligently advance work towards the adoption of the next MFF. EU Leaders also quickly discussed the possibility of rendering the allocation of EU funds conditional, for instance, to the reception of asylum-seekers.

On 27 February, UNHCR’s the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Mr. Volker Turk, addressed the European Parliament (EP)’s committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and on Foreign Affairs and national parliamentarians from the EU Member States during [an inter-parliamentary meeting](#). The AHC-P outlined progress on the elaboration of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), focused on the key elements of the zero draft and pointed out challenges ahead. The AHC-P called upon the EP to support the elaboration of the GCR, and outlined the form such support could take.

REFUGEE STORIES

Polish city leads the way in solidarity with refugees

By Helen Womack in Gdansk, Poland, 16/02/2018

The port city of Gdansk once led the fight for freedom from Communism in Poland. Now it is showing a new kind of solidarity – with migrants and refugees.

“For me, it is all about the moral arguments,” says Pawel Adamowicz, the Mayor of Gdansk who, together with a task force, has produced an “Immigrant Integration Model” now being taken up by other Polish cities. “Most important are our Christian values, the humanitarian obligation to help people. I felt it was up to us to take a lead,” he says.

Although Poland in general has been wary of refugees, Mayor Adamowicz launched the Gdansk Model after meeting Pope Francis in 2016.

The Gdansk Model is a comprehensive programme to help refugees and migrants integrate. The idea is that individuals and institutions in all spheres, from education and culture to labour and health, should actively include refugees. An advisory council, with 13 migrant representatives, including two refugees, keeps the Mayor abreast of concerns. Gdansk, with a population of 460,000, is home to some 25,000 refugees and migrants. Most are from parts of the former Soviet Union such as Chechnya and Ukraine, but there are also refugees from Rwanda and Syria.



Citizenship opens new world for stateless man from Georgia

By Valeriia Cherednichenko and Nino Kajaia in Tbilisi, Georgia, 12/02/2018

Statelessness not only stopped 24-year-old Jirair from working legally or obtaining health insurance. It also crushed his lifelong dream of representing Georgia at an international wrestling championship.



For years, he dedicated most of his free time to sport, but was never able to accompany his team to tournaments outside the country. “When you are a stateless person, it seems your life is put on hold,” says Jirair. Now, after finally receiving citizenship, he is able to pursue his dreams.

Jirair’s life was transformed in 2015 after he applied to be recognized as stateless. That year, he received his first identity card and travel document. In 2016, changes to the law enabled Jirair to prove his presence in Georgia in 1993 and finally, in June 2017, Jirair proudly received Georgian citizenship.

“It finally happened, what I wanted, what I dreamed of,” he says. “My life has finally been taken off the ‘pause’ button. Jirair can also marry the love of his life. “I have been in love for four years and now, after I got citizenship, we can finally create our own family,” he says. “I have waited for this for so long.”

SAFE AND LEGAL PATHWAYS TO EUROPE

WHY ARE SAFE AND LEGAL PATHWAYS TO EUROPE NEEDED?

- Because **they could help reduce the risks and saves lives**. In the absence of safe and regular alternatives, people take [desperate journeys](#) to find protection or reunite with their families.
- Because **they would help to share the responsibility** with the countries hosting refugees

HOW CAN THEY BE EXPANDED?

- Resettling more refugees
- Removing obstacles to family reunification
- Developing private sponsorship programmes and humanitarian corridors
- Providing more student scholarship schemes

WHAT IS THIS? HOW DOES IT WORK?

RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State which has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent residence status. It is a durable solution for those who cannot return or enjoy protection in the first country of asylum. However, of all refugees around the world, less than one per cent are submitted for resettlement.



Single mother Maisaa had been eking out an increasingly precarious existence for years as a refugee in Lebanon, having fled the bombs in Syria. Recently, she was [resettled with her children to Northern Ireland](#) under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). The VPRS, which aims to bring 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees affected by the Syrian conflict to the UK by 2020, has made the UK one of the largest resettlement countries globally. Under the scheme local authorities and community groups offer initial support to refugees, providing them with the tools to integrate, learn English, attend school and gain employment.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

People seeking international protection may at times be forced to travel separately due to factors such as dangers along the route and/or limited resources. As a result, some family members may remain behind in insecure situations in the country of origin or in a country to which they have fled. Once one or some family members reach a safe country, they frequently seek to reunite with their remaining family members.

Ziad Asaad and Kholoud Al-Nadir had a big, traditional Palestinian wedding in the Palestinian refugee camp they called home in Syria. Ziad found asylum in Austria and [he is praying to be reunified with his bride](#) so they can resume married life. Meanwhile, Kholoud is stuck in the Khan Al-Shih Palestinian refugee camp near Damascus.

Austrian law says that family members must submit their applications for reunification within three months of a refugee receiving asylum. Kholoud missed the deadline through no fault of her own. Fighting prevented her from leaving the camp and reaching Austrian consular officials in time.



HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION

Humanitarian actors, in cooperation with States, have exceptionally resorted to emergency evacuations or transfers in extreme circumstances when there has been no other way to provide urgent assistance or protection to respond to severe threats to life and security.

Within three months, from November 2017 to February 2018, UNHCR has evacuated over 1,300 highly vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers out of Libya and is looking for durable solutions for them.



© UNHCR/ Alessandro Penso

Timnit, a 25-year-old Eritrean woman, was in [the first group of 162 refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen who arrived safely in Italy after being evacuated from Libya with UNHCR's support](#). The group included families, single mothers, unaccompanied children and disabled people, all of them needed health care and counselling after being held captive in inhumane and degrading conditions and undergoing abuse from traffickers, smugglers and others on hazardous journeys across Africa.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR REFUGEES

Student scholarships are among the ways universities, regional authorities and governments can provide opportunities for refugees to move to third countries in regular and safe ways, and thereby increase their options. Higher education plays an important role: it helps refugees build a future and become self-reliant, and assists communities recovering from conflict to rebuild.



© UNHCR/ Benjamin Loyseau

[Young Syrians receive a chance to study in France](#) thanks to a pioneering assistance programme launched by a regional government and two universities. The Occitanie/ Pyrénées-Méditerranée regional council, in partnership with the non-governmental organization Démocratie et Entraide en Syrie Ghosn Zeitoun, the Federal University of Toulouse and Paul Valéry University in Montpellier, offered scholarships for Syrian refugees in Jordan to undertake undergraduate studies in southern France.

HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS

Humanitarian Corridors programmes established by faith-based organisations in Italy, France and Belgium, with the support of their respective governments, are providing life-saving options for some of the most vulnerable refugees. In Italy, for example, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches (FCEI), and the Waldensian Board have committed to sponsor some 1,500 persons residing in Lebanon, Morocco or Ethiopia according to vulnerability criteria.

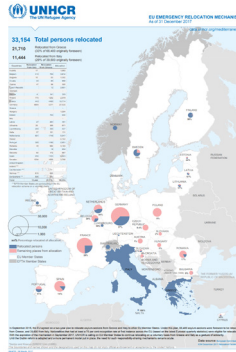


© UNHCR/Diana Diaz

© UNHCR/ Diana Diaz

Barwako, a timid 12-year-old Somali girl, has been affected by a skin disease since she was four. While on the move, Barwako's condition worsened. Years of countless visits to different doctors in Addis Ababa in the hope of obtaining effective treatment have yielded no long-lasting results, and unfortunately Barwako lost her lower lip. Finally, there is hope. [Barwako and her family have been selected to move to Italy through a Humanitarian Corridors programme where she will finally receive the medical attention she needs](#). Barwako is on the verge of seeing her dream come true and starting a new life.

Key Documents from the Web Portal



RRMRP - activity update 2017

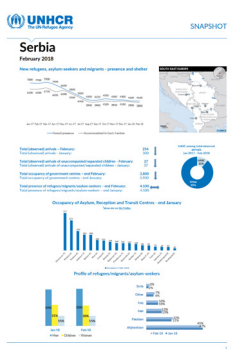
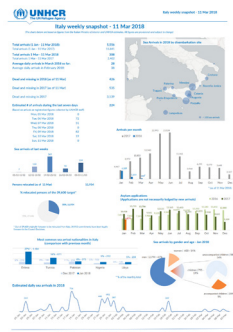
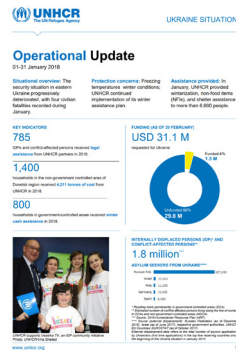
Summary of key interventions applied across various sectors throughout the region by humanitarian partners.

Europe Relocation Map December 2017

Persons relocated under the EU emergency relocation mechanism.

Resettlement to Europe - 2017

Summary of resettlement to Europe in 2017 highlighting Europe's contribution to global resettlement.



Ukraine operational update January 2018

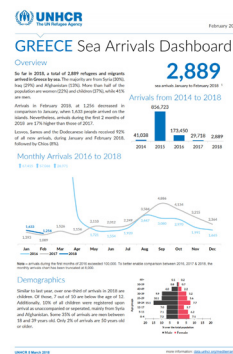
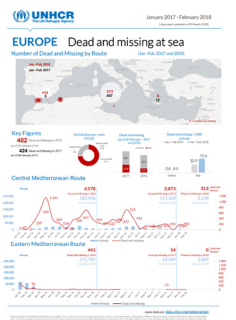
Ukraine operational updates highlighting UNHCR activities.

Italy weekly snapshot 11 March 2018

key statistics of recent arrivals to Italy as well as asylum applications and relocation.

Serbia snapshot February 2018

Summary of population statistics including asylum applications and observed pushbacks.



Dead and missing at sea in the Mediterranean - February 2018

Number of dead and missing in the Mediterranean by route.

Greece sea arrivals dashboard February 2018

Summary of recent arrivals of refugees and migrants to Greece.

Greece accommodation scheme February 2018

Rented housing scheme for vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece.

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TIMELINE OVERVIEW

