

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
361,788

arrivals by sea in 2016*

5,022

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Last week, 346 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by sea from Turkey, which increased the daily arrival average to 46 from 40 the previous week when 278 people crossed the sea. Most arrivals were on Lesbos (45%) and Chios (25%), consistent with arrival trends in November and December so far. As of 25 December, the majority of arrivals by sea in Greece in 2016 have been nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic (47%), Afghanistan (24%) and Iraq (15%). So far in December, the average arrivals per day has been 57 compared to 66 in November.

Meanwhile in Italy, 856 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Italy, marking a substantial decrease from the 4,225 that arrived the previous week. The new arrivals contributed to a total of 180,325 that had arrived by sea in Italy in 2016 as of 25 December. According to official data up to 22 December, the majority of arrivals in 2016 have been from Nigeria (21%), Eritrea (11%) and Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Gambia (each 7%). Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) continue to arrive by boat in Italy with an estimated 37 this week contributing to an estimated total of 676 so far in December. Italian Ministry of Interior statistics up until the end of November show that by then 24,659 UASC had arrived in Italy, almost double the 12,360 that arrived in Italy in all of 2015.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

Efforts to winterize the sites continued with further pre-fab houses and heaters installed and winter clothes and footwear distributed in northern Greece. Of the 15 sites assigned by Greek authorities to UNHCR for winterization¹, UNHCR has completed winterization in 10 and

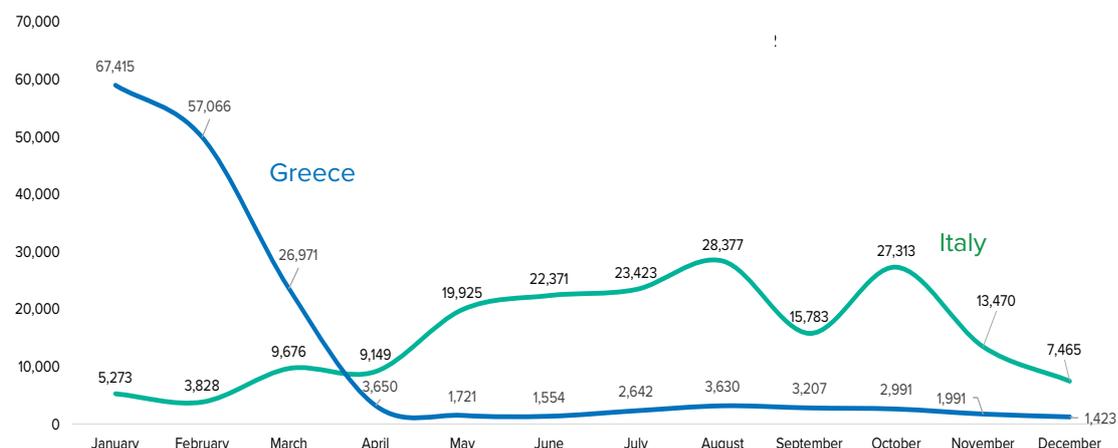
1 Lagadikia, Nea Kavala, Alexandria, Vasilika/Redestos and Pieria (Petra Olympou) in northern Greece; Katsikas, Filippiada and Agia Eleni (new site) in

fully evacuated those in another two sites to alternative accommodation. Furthermore, UNHCR has been progressing with work for the new sites of Agia Eleni in western Greece and Styliida in central Greece after final approval of site plans by the government. Winterization of Vasilika/Redestos site is also ongoing. While alternative accommodation is being identified by UNHCR, temporary electrification started on 22 December thanks to collaboration with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland. Additionally, the Municipality of Thermi installed four wood-burning stoves/heaters inside four hangars, and International Medical Corps is setting up plastic curtains on all the doors of the warehouse hangar. Works should be finalized by the end of December/early January. Moreover, UNHCR contributed substantially to the winterization of six additional sites² assigned to other organizations in order to fill gaps, and supported the full evacuation of Cherso and Malakasa to UNHCR accommodation.

Validation of pre-registration data, including by UNHCR partners, for cash assistance continued in sites throughout mainland Greece. In northern Greece, IFRC and UNHCR's partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/Caritas completed the registration and distribution of cards in Karamanlis, Kavalari, Sindos/Frakaport, Vasilika/Redestos and Kalochori. Cash for the first month will be loaded onto the cards in the next two weeks. In central Greece, CRS held information sessions and meetings in Trikala and Volos sites to inform people about the cash programme and registration of eligible persons started on 22 December. The first cash distribution will take place next week. In the Attica region, cards have been distributed in Elefsina and Skaramangas sites and

western Greece; Kipselochori and Styliida (new site) in central Greece; Schisto, Eleonas, Elefsina, Rafina and Andravidas in Attica and Peloponnesus. 2 Thermopiles, Trikala, Tsepelovo, Diavata, Kara Tepe and Moria.

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 25 December 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 31 December 2016

Key Figures

Greece

323

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands

19 December - 25 December

46

Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands

19 December - 25 December

Italy

856

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy

19 December - 25 December

122

Daily Average Arrivals to Italy

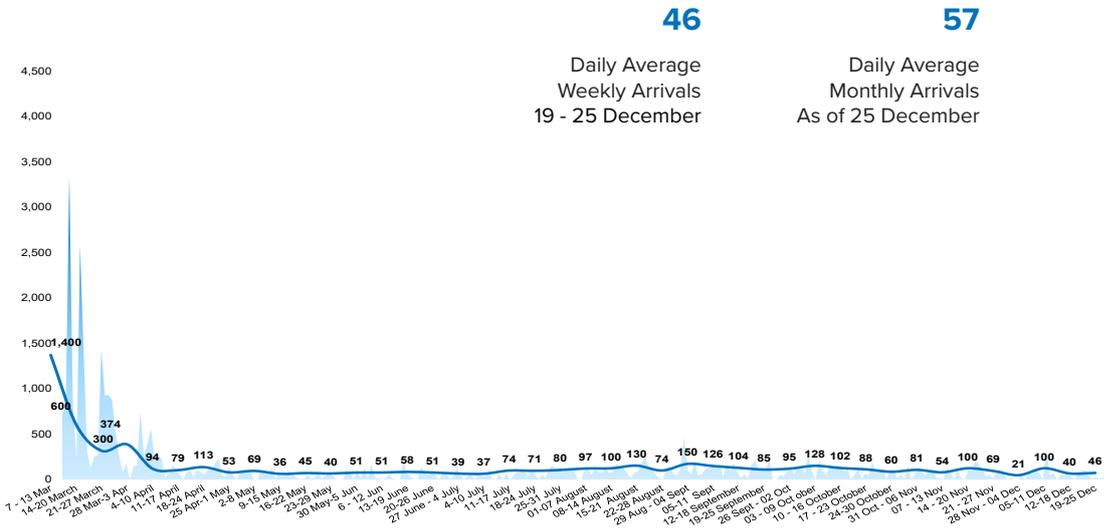
19 December - 25 December

a helpline has been activated for people to call for more information and clarification on the use of the cards.

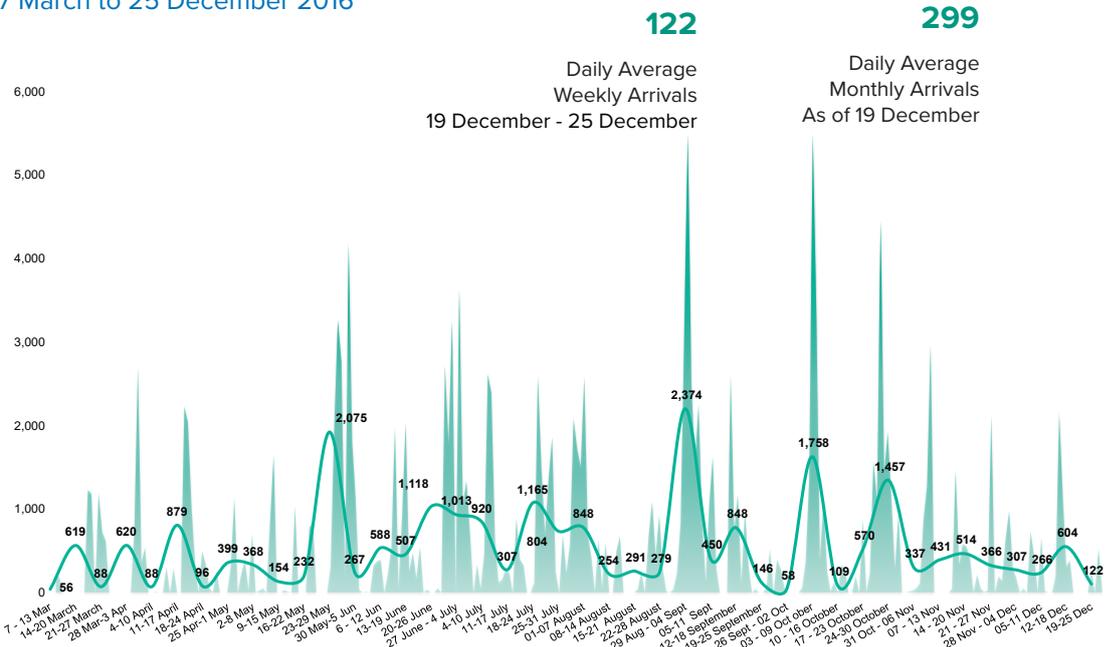
On the islands, there is a need to speed up transfers to the mainland to decongest the island sites. This requires more spaces to be made available in the mainland sites as well as speedier processing of cases of those eligible for transfer from the islands. At present, while the number of arrivals is very low, slow processing of those eligible for transfer to the mainland means that larger population groups are residing in poor overcrowded reception facilities. Conditions are particularly difficult

on Samos where around 1,730 people are residing at the Vathy Reception and Identification Centre (RIC), which has capacity for 606. Up to 900 people are estimated to be sleeping in up to 400 small tents and 29 large 10-person tents provided by the Army. A further 300 people are sleeping in tents in the 'extended area' of the RIC, which lacks access to the island's electrical and water systems, is poorly illuminated, and prone to landslides. While Samos does not have a second accommodation site, there are 167 asylum-seekers, primarily persons with specific needs, residing in other shelters and hotels. However, on Chios, UNHCR's partner Samaritan's Purse complet-

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece
07 March to 25 December 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy
07 March to 25 December 2016



ed technical works to increase the electrical power and installed new electric heaters at Souda site.

UNHCR continues to work with authorities and partners around Greece to strengthen the identification and assistance to UASC. On Kos, following the arrivals of 43 UASC in December, the situation in the UASC area of the RIC, which now hosts 79 children, remains critical. Lack of space resulting in some sleeping in adult areas or leading to 19 UASC in each container is contributing to increased tensions and even violence and increases the risks of abuse. On Samos, an estimated 95 UASC are currently residing in the RIC, 26 of them with pending decisions from the Public Prosecutor regarding the appointment of a guardian. While there are six available spaces in UASC shelters on the island, these remain unfilled because the children have not been referred yet by EKKA, the responsible Greek authority. In central Greece, there are 41 UASC at the sites of Oinofyta, Volos and Ritsona and UNHCR is working with the authorities and partners to refer them to EKKA and the appropriate services. In Attica, as the lead organization for child protection in Elaionas, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has engaged a lawyer to provide legal counselling and aid the UASC living in the safe space of Elaionas II, a significant step given the lack of permanent actors providing legal services at the site.

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

On 19 December, three Pakistani nationals and two Algerian nationals were returned from Greece to Turkey and subsequently transferred to Kırklareli Removal Centre. Two of them had withdrawn their asylum applications, and three of them had their asylum applications and appeals rejected. On 20 December, 19 Syrians were returned to Turkey and transferred to Düziçi camp. One had decided not to apply for asylum and the other 18 had opted to withdraw their asylum applications. This brings

the total number of persons returned to Turkey to 801 of whom 110 were from Syria.

Situation in Serbia

As of 25 December, there were approximately 7,000 new refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants in Serbia, 82% of whom were in government centres, while the rest were sleeping rough in Belgrade city centre and at the border with Hungary in spite of the winter weather. Information provided by authorities indicates that almost 80% are from Afghanistan (49%), Iraq (19%), and Syria (10%) and are mostly women and children (61%) while men comprise 39%.

With many government reception facilities full, UNHCR's Representative and the Assistant Commissioner for Refugees and Migration opened two newly-renovated barracks for 58 refugees each in the Asylum Centre of Krnjaca, rehabilitated by Catholic Relief Service and the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation. Following the recent opening of the UNHCR-funded new medical station in Krnjaca, these two new barracks add to UNHCR's support to increase and improve winterized accommodation for refugees in Serbia. UNHCR and partners also continue to monitor all five Asylum Centres (Krnjaca, Bogovadja, Banja Koviljaca, Tutin and Sjenica) providing counselling, legal assistance and psychosocial support. UNHCR and partners also continue to identify cases with specific needs, including people with serious medical conditions.

Two Syrian children were reunited with their father in Germany after German authorities granted visas to the sisters based on family reunification. This enabled the girls to travel legally from Serbia to Germany on 21 December. UNHCR appreciates the efforts of German and Serbian authorities to resolve this case and encourages other states to follow suit.

Key Documents from the Portal



WEEKLY ACCOMMODATION & RELOCATION UPDATE December 26, 2016



SUMMARY STATISTICS

Total number of places: 20,982*

STATISTICS IN DETAILS

	Total number of places
Total number of places in apartments	11,752
Total number of places in hotels/motels	2,090
Total number of places in host families	484
Total number of places in shelters	4,992
Total number of places in reception centres	960
Total number of places for unaccompanied children	704

*122 places are located in hotels, 220 places in government centres and 200 places for unaccompanied children in the former Union of the Republics of Macedonia and Serbia. 300 places for unaccompanied children in other states.

TRENDS FROM APRIL TO DECEMBER 2016 (TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES)



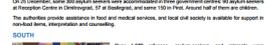
Weekly ACCOMMODATION & RELOCATION Update
Source of data: UNHCR Geneva (2016) <https://data.unhcr.org/>



HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Authorities, UNHCR, and partners estimate that close to 7,000 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants are sleeping in shelters, with over 5,700 in 62 government facilities across Serbia and the remainder sleeping rough in Belgrade City centre or at the border with Hungary.
- Supporting access to family reunification and to work is a key priority for UNHCR and partners. UNHCR and partners assisted 37 unaccompanied asylum-seekers with transport from Belgrade to Paris.
- 17 accommodations were established in the so-called "border zones". Almost 100 unaccompanied children, unable to come on Serbian territory, UNHCR and partners received reports of over 100 foreign military conscripts in front-line military facilities near Krnjaca and the front Centre, currently without being able to receive regular provisions.
- 130 unaccompanied children reported to seek asylum, bringing the total for the month of December to 905, and for the year to 12,122.

Occupancy of Reception Centres, Transit and Asylum Centres as of 26 December 2016



EAST

On 21 December, some 300 asylum seekers were accommodated in three government centres, 90 asylum seekers at Reception Centres in Vukotina, 17 at Belgrade, and some 100 in Paris. Around half of them are children.

The authorities provide assistance in food and medical services, and local civil society is available for support in material items, interpretation and counselling.

SOUTH

Over 1,000 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres (RC) of Ploče and Šibenik and in the Reception Centres (RC) of Ploče and Šibenik. The total number of beneficiaries in the RCs of Ploče and Šibenik is 1,000. The total number of beneficiaries in the RCs of Ploče and Šibenik is 1,000.

UNHCR and other organizations assisted with food and medical items, medical services, counselling, interpretation, vehicle and other material supplies. Close contact of authorities, UNHCR and other organizations is required for the Centre for counselling and legal assistance for unaccompanied and separated children. Over the Christmas period, a lot of waiting of their family members is being observed in the Reception Centres to be able to re-join their families.



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Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

Hungarian officials continue to admit up to 20 persons per day via the two 'transit zones' (10 in each transit zone), resulting in 94 people (mostly Afghans and Syrians) being granted access during the week to seek asylum. Around 65 people slept for several days outside each of the 'transit zones' despite the harsh weather conditions and an offer by the Serbian authorities to stay in the Subotica Transit Centre until the admission date. To keep warm, some lit fires inside tents, creating a serious health hazard. Families granted admission to Hungary via the 'transit zones' reported waiting for between three and six months. In addition to their time in various reception facilities in Serbia, some families also waited for up to 20 days sleeping rough outside the 'transit zones' prior to entry. For single men and unaccompanied children, the waiting period for admission was longer with some single men waiting up to six months and some unaccompanied children waiting for six and a half months.

In light of these extensive waiting periods, many continue to try to cross into Hungary from Serbia irregularly. Last week, Hungarian authorities reported apprehending 51 persons who had entered the country irregularly while another 236 were intercepted inside Hungary but then escorted back to the Serbian side of the border fence. A further 328 people attempting to cross the border irregularly were prevented from crossing.

UNHCR continues to make daily visits to the 'transit zones' to provide asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, Dublin procedures and on the implications of the 'safe third country notion' applied by Hungarian authorities. UNHCR also visits people detained at the accommodation section in the 'transit zones' (where 46 men were being held last week) and informs them about their right to appeal, to request legal aid, and to submit additional information in writing about the reasons for not seeking asylum in Serbia within three days of their interview with Hungary's Office of Immigration and Nationality.

Update on Relocation

A total of 58 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece last week to Portugal (24), Latvia (15), Cyprus (13), Germany (4), and the Netherlands (2). The overall number of pledges to Greece still remains low at 13,634 (20.5 % of the targeted 66,400) although there were 520 new pledges from Switzerland (200), Netherlands (100), Norway (80), Switzerland (70), Norway (80) and Luxembourg (50) last week. In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted last week an additional 413 relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and 357 received transportation services last week.

During the week, 303 persons were relocated from Italy to Norway (156), Switzerland (125), Portugal (10) and Spain (12) bringing the total relocated from Italy to 2,654 (6.7% of the 39,600 target).

Deaths at Sea

Deaths in the Mediterranean continue to increase as refugees and migrants cross to Italy and Greece. On 20 December, at least five people drowned and one person remained missing after a boat with 14 Afghans capsized off Ayvalık, Turkey on the way to Lesbos. The Turkish Coast Guard rescued the rest of the group and several were subsequently hospitalized.

In the central Mediterranean, over [100 people](#) are thought to have died after two inflatable boats deflated at sea, one carrying around 120 persons and the other between 120 and 140. Although eighty people were rescued from the first boat, another forty were missing and feared dead while on the second boat, 63 people were rescued and another 60, mostly women and children, were missing and feared dead. These latest deaths bring the total recorded deaths in 2016 to 5,011 as of 24 December, the highest on record and highlights the need for States to increase legal pathways for admission of refugees, including resettlement, private sponsorship, and family reunification.

EU Related Developments

On 19 December, the European Commission (EC) [signed contracts](#) worth EUR 270 million under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The funding will be used to construct and equip schools for Syrian refugee children and their host communities in Turkey, primarily in the country's southern and south-eastern provinces, and assist the Turkish Ministry of National Education in managing educational infrastructure.

On the same day, the EC awarded EUR 38.2 million of emergency funding to Italy under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Of this, EUR 13.5 million will be granted to the Italian Ministry of Interior for border and migration management and support. A further EUR 22.2 million will be provided to the Italian Ministry of Defence (EUR 16.7 million) and the Italian Coast Guard (EUR 5.5 million) for border surveillance and rescue at sea. Finally, EUR 2.5 million will be provided to the Italian Ministry of Interior to support actions concerning unaccompanied children.

Also on 19 December, the EC awarded EUR 48.2 million of emergency funding to Bulgaria under the ISF and the AMIF. EUR 36.2 million will be provided to the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior to enhance border management and EUR 12 million for migration management.

Timeline Overview

● Highlights

