

Greece

1-30 June 2017

An estimated **11,000 people arrived in Greece in 2017**. The living conditions for many asylum-seekers have improved and the Government is gradually closing sites, including Elliniko.

Yet **problems persist**, particularly on the islands where some asylum-seekers must remain for their asylum decisions. This results in overcrowded 'hotspots' and poor conditions.

The situation **increases tension and protection risks**, including sexual and gender-based violence. Vulnerable asylum-seekers and children are particularly at risk.

43,370 in Greece¹

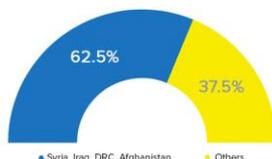
34,879 in the mainland

8,491 on the islands

33,400 received cash assistance from UNHCR this month

31,805 benefited from UNHCR accommodation since Nov. 2015

9,264 transferred by UNHCR from the islands to the mainland since June 2016



62.5% of arrivals in 2017 are from Syria, Iraq, DRC and Afghanistan

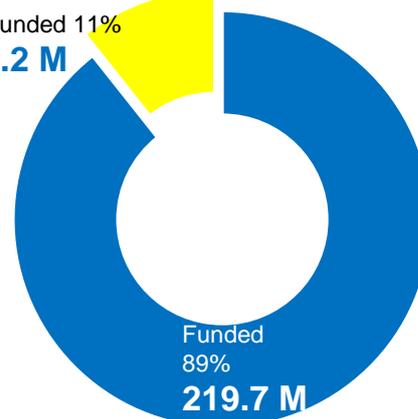
¹UNHCR estimates as of 30 June 2017

FUNDING (AS OF 3 AUGUST)

USD 245.9 M

requested for the Greece situation

Unfunded 11%
26.2 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

401 National Staff

77 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Athens

5 Mainland Offices in
Attika, Thessaloniki,
Ioannina, Larissa, Evros

6 Island Offices in Lesbos,
Chios, Samos, Leros,
Kos, Rhodes



2017 Refugee Food Festival at Seychelles Restaurant, Greece. ©UNHCR/Yorgos Kyvernitis.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the Government of Greece who coordinates the refugee response. The Office works with other UN agencies, international and national NGOs, community-based organizations, refugee and host communities through 70 sectoral Working Groups at the national and field levels.

Main Activities

Accommodation and Cash Assistance

- This month, 33,400 eligible asylum-seekers received cash assistance in Greece from UNHCR, and the UNHCR-funded Greece Cash Alliance partners. Cash assistance restores dignity and empowers asylum-seekers who can now choose how to cover their basic needs. It also contributes directly to the economy of the host community.
- Also in June, UNHCR provided 17,900 places for the accommodation of vulnerable asylum-seekers. UNHCR works with municipalities and partners around Greece to house refugees in rented accommodation. This gives beneficiaries a sense of normalcy and facilitates their eventual integration. The programme also benefits the host population.

Asylum Procedures

- UNHCR supports the Greek Asylum Service by helping upon request the caseworkers with on-the-job training and advice on drafting decisions and conducting interviews. In June, UNHCR helped in 1,400 instances, and 50 interviews.
- UNHCR also provides legal aid to asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection through partners. So far this year, 3,177 people have received legal aid.

Child Protection

- UNHCR in Greece provides advice and technical support to the Government, as well as expert staff to EKKA, the agency responsible for the referral of unaccompanied children (UAC) to shelters.
- In June, UNHCR provided 718 accommodation places for children in shelters through partners.
- UNHCR also coordinates with humanitarian actors and stakeholders to monitor and develop Standard Operating Procedures and minimum standards to enhance the protection of children.

SGBV

- UNHCR co-chairs the SGBV Working Group with the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) and the General Secretariat on Gender Equality. In Greece, the WG has developed Standard Operating Procedures to guide the response and prevention to Sexual and Gender-based Violence.
- UNHCR and partners have also developed referral pathways to respond to SGBV.
- In June, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) on joint actions to protect refugee women and their children at risk of trafficking or discrimination, and to facilitate their integration.

Health

- UNHCR chairs the Health Working Group and works to ameliorate refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to healthcare. UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Health for the vaccination of children residing in UNHCR's rented accommodation.
- A particular problem in Greece is the lack of public mental health institutions. UNHCR is developing referral pathways to direct those affected from mental health issues to private institutions.
- In June, the Ministry of Migration Policy requested UNHCR's assistance in the development of the Vulnerability Protocol by KEELPNO, the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR is working with the Government to develop further the national integration policy for refugees and for people who receive subsidiary protection.
- UNHCR is supporting family reunion under the Dublin Regulation to other EU Member States and assumed at the request of the Asylum Service the cost of transportation of people reuniting with their families between February and July 2017. In June, UNHCR assisted 457 people through its partner.
- In June, there was a significant increase in the number of people who relocated from Greece to other EU Member States. According to the Greek Asylum Service, 2,007 people departed this month.

Logistics

- In June UNHCR assisted the transfer of 907 asylum-seekers from the islands to rented accommodation and open sites in the mainland. Since June 2016, UNHCR has coordinated and covered the cost of 9,264 such transfers, which help alleviate the overcrowded conditions in the sites of the islands.
- Many of the sites in the mainland are remote from services and transportation. UNHCR ensures that this does not hinder access to asylum or healthcare. In June, UNHCR provided transportation to the Asylum Service, Embassies and medical services for 5,200 asylum-seekers in Northern Greece and 800 in Attika.

Peaceful Coexistence

- In June, UNHCR donated three containers to the community of those affected from the 6.3 Richter scale earthquake on the island of Lesbos. The earthquake resulted in the death of one person, and the collapse of many buildings in the village of Vrisa. One of the containers will be used as a health clinic and the others by the Police authorities.

Partners

- In June UNHCR worked through 31 partners in 11 sectors. UNHCR worked on Protection with GRC, KSPM - ERP, METAdrasi, Praksis, Arsis, ICMC, UNOPS, Samaritan's Purse, Catholic Relief Services, Intersos, DRC, Ministry of Interior; on Child Protection with Praksis, Nostos, Faros, Arsis, METAdrasi, Iliaktida, Save the Children, Network for Children's Rights; NFI/Shelter with Samaritan's Purse; on WASH with Samaritan's Purse; on CASH with Samaritan's Purse, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, IFRC and Care; on Site Management Support with Samaritan's Purse, Intersos, DRC, UNOPS, Reception and Identification Service; on Health with Medecins du Monde and WAHA; on Education with Save the Children; on Accommodation with Praksis, CRS, Arsis, Nostos, Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Faros, Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Livadia, Municipality of Thessaloniki, Heraklion Development Agency, Municipality of Andravida; on Peaceful Coexistence with Arsis, Solidarity Now, Samaritan's Purse, Intersos, UNOPS and on Raising Awareness with TENet-Gr, UNOPS.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Private Donors Spain (29 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (12 M) | Italy (10 M) |

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 20XX

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