Aegean Islands Weekly Snapshot

Arrivals
This week, 39 people arrived on the Aegean islands, a decrease from last week’s 56 arrivals and from last year’s 184 arrivals during the same period.

The average daily arrivals on all islands this week equaled 6, compared to 8 in the previous week.

Entry Points by Sea
Lesvos received the highest number of arrivals (39), the Dodecanese islands, Samos and Chios received no arrivals.

Departures to the mainland
This week, 285 asylum-seekers departed, once authorized by the authorities, from the Aegean islands to the mainland. Of those, 221 were transferred by the Government with the support of UNHCR to open reception facilities/sites on the mainland. To ‘shield’ the elderly and immune-compromised from the risk of COVID-19, UNHCR is currently prioritizing their transfer out of the island RICs and into ESTIA apartments on the islands or the mainland. This week, 115 people were transferred, of whom 62 to ESTIA on the mainland and 53 on the island.

Present Population on the Islands
Some 39,500 refugees and asylum-seekers reside on the Aegean islands. The majority of the population on the Aegean islands are from Afghanistan (49%), Syria (19%) and Somalia (6%).

Women account for 23% of the population, and children for 33% of whom more than 6 out of 10 are younger than 12 years old.

Approximately 14% of the children are unaccompanied or separated, mainly from Afghanistan.