Aegean Islands Weekly Snapshot

Arrivals
This week, there were no arrivals on the Aegean islands. Sea arrivals are at pace with last week’s 0 arrivals but decreased compared to last year’s 581 arrivals during the same period.

The average daily arrivals on all islands both this week and the previous equaled 0.

Entry Points by Sea
There were no arrivals on the Aegean Islands this week.

Departures to the mainland
This week, 139 asylum-seekers departed, once authorized by the authorities, from the Aegean islands to the mainland. Of those, 138 were transferred by the Government with the support of UNHCR to open reception facilities/sites and to ESTIA apartments currently managed by UNHCR.

Present Population on the Islands
Some 38,700 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 13% of the children are unaccompanied or separated, mainly from Afghanistan.

Shielding against Covid-19
To ‘shield’ the older and immune-compromised asylum-seekers from the risk of COVID19, UNHCR is currently prioritizing their transfer out of the island RICs into ESTIA apartments on the islands or the mainland and hotels on the islands. This week, 84 people were moved, of whom 50 to ESTIA on the mainland, 25 to ESTIA on the island and 9 to hotels on the islands.