Aegean Islands Weekly Snapshot

Arrivals
This week, 36 people arrived on the Aegean islands, a decrease from last week’s 59 and from last year’s 2,114 arrivals during the same period.

The average daily arrivals on all islands this week equaled 5, compared to 8 in the previous week.

Departures to the mainland
This week, 242 asylum-seekers departed, once authorized by the authorities, from the Aegean islands to the mainland. Of those, 112 were transferred by the Government with the support of UNHCR to ESTIA apartments currently managed by UNHCR and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MMA).

Present Population on the Islands
Some 19,500 refugees and asylum-seekers reside on the Aegean islands. The majority of the population on the Aegean islands are from Afghanistan (46%), Syria (19%) and DRC (7%).

Women account for 21% of the population, and children for 28% of whom nearly 7 out of 10 are younger than 12 years old.

Approximately 6% 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, 18 people were moved, of whom 5 to ESTIA on the island and 13 to ESTIA on the mainland.

Entry Points by Sea
The Dodecanese islands received the highest number of arrivals (36). Lesvos, Chios and Samos received no arrivals.

More information: UNHCR Operation Portal - Greece

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*Other departures includes i) transfers within IOM AVRR, ii) transfers of UASCs to State-run facilities, iii) transfers both to open reception facilities/sites and closed centres in the mainland organised and supported by the Government and iv) those who depart on their own means (following the lift of geographical restriction). **Other includes other facilities and self-accommodated. Statistics regarding Returns in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement, can be found in UNHCR’s data portal.

Data Sources: Population data – UNHCR estimates based on enrolment; Arrivals/Departures – Hellenic Police, Hellenic Coast Guard.

Figures are subject to future adjustment based on consolidated figures provided by authorities. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.