Aegean Islands Weekly Snapshot

Arrivals
This week, 33 people arrived on the Aegean islands, an increase from last week’s 11 arrivals but a decrease from last year’s 943 arrivals during the same period.

The average daily arrivals on all islands this week equaled 5, compared to 2 in the previous week.

Departures to the mainland
This week, 54 asylum-seekers departed, once authorized by the authorities, from the Aegean islands to the mainland.

Present Population on the Islands
Some 18,500 refugees and asylum-seekers reside on the Aegean islands. The majority of the population on the Aegean islands are from Afghanistan (47%), Syria (17%) and Somalia (8%).

Women account for 21% of the population, and children for 27% 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. This week, no people were moved.

Entry Points by Sea
Lesvos received the highest number of arrivals (33). Chios, Samos and the Dodecanese islands received no arrivals.

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*Other departures include 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.