Aegean Islands Weekly Snapshot

Arrivals
This week, 163 people arrived on the Aegean islands, an increase from last week’s 0 arrivals but a decrease from last year’s 2,121 arrivals during the same period.

The average daily arrivals on all islands this week equalled 23, compared to 0 in the previous week.

Departures to the mainland
This week, 532 asylum-seekers departed, once authorized by the authorities, from the Aegean islands to the mainland. Of those, 70 were transferred by the Government with the support of UNHCR to ESTIA apartments currently managed by UNHCR.

Present Population on the Islands
Some 27,600 refugees and asylum-seekers reside on the Aegean islands. The majority of the population on the Aegean islands are from Afghanistan (47%), Syria (19%) and DRC (7%).

Women account for 22% of the population, and children for 31% of whom nearly 7 out of 10 are younger than 12 years old.

Approximately 12% 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, 19 people were moved, of whom 17 to ESTIA on the mainland and 2 to ESTIA on the island.

Entry Points by Sea
The Dodecanese received the highest number of arrivals (136), followed by Chios (26) and Lesvos (1).

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 organized and supported by the Government and iv) those who depart on their own means (following the lift of geographical restrictions). *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.

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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.