

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean

265,560

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,151

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 08 and 14 August, 698 refugees and migrants crossed the sea from Turkey to the Greek islands – a very slight increase from the 682 who arrived the previous week. So far in August, 1,380 people have arrived by sea in Greece and the average number of daily arrivals has been 99 compared with 60 in July. Most arrivals in August so far have been to Chios, Lesbos and Kalymnos. As of 14 August, 161,599 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea in Greece with 48% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq.

During the reporting period, 1,778 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Italy between 08 and 14 August – a significant decrease from the 5,933 that arrived the previous week – with no arrivals for four days during the week. Most had departed from Egypt and Libya, but smaller numbers were also recorded as having departed from Turkey, Greece and Tunisia. As of 14 August, 101,485 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea to Italy compared to 116,149 at the end of August 2015. Some of the top nationalities represented among arrivals to Italy 20% are from Nigeria, 12% are from Eritrea, and 7% are each from Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan and Guinea. So far in August, 7,711 people have arrived in Italy with an average number of daily arrivals of 551 compared to 760 in July.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

The small increase of refugees and migrants arriving on the Aegean islands have placed additional pressure on the already overstretched reception facilities. A total of 698 new arrivals were recorded on the islands, 16 more than in the previous week. Arrivals fluctuated, with 174 arrivals on 10 August and only 17 new arrivals on 14 August. On Chios, maximum capacity has been reached in Vial Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) and the informal sites Souda, Dipethe, thus posing challenges in

sheltering new arrivals. A new site on Chios is being prepared with the support of UNHCR but will not be ready for at least three months. As part of the decongestion efforts on the islands, the Government is planning to transfer 1,000 – 2,000 asylum-seekers issued with asylum cards (mainly Syrians) to sites on the mainland. Arrivals to Kalymnos have increased significantly with 137 people reaching the island in the first two weeks of August. On Lesbos, following concerns regarding fraudulent documents used to purchase ferry tickets, authorities are now checking documents up to two hours ahead of boarding.

On the mainland, spontaneous movements on the mainland between sites may be attributed to lack of uniformity in services provided at different sites and the perception among asylum-seekers that if they move to another site they will have better access to basic services and asylum procedure.

In Central Greece, UNHCR conducted information sessions on next steps after pre-registration in several sites. While waiting for notification via text message of their appointment with the Regional Asylum Office, impatience is on the rise among asylum-seekers. Official results from the pre-registration exercise following its closure on 25 July, are expected to be finalized by the Greek Asylum Service early next week. The results of which are likely to indicate an overall reduction in the total estimated asylum-seeking population on the mainland.

The accommodation capacity in support of the EU's relocation programme has reached 9,768 places, representing 49 % of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and partners under the EC-funded project.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary border

During the week, an average of 1,123 people were waiting in the north of Serbia each day for entry to Hungary, with hundreds near the two official transit zones,

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month
January to 14 August 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 16 August 2016

Key Figures

Greece

698

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands

08 August - 14 August

100

Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands

08 August - 14 August

Italy

1,778

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy

08 August - 14 August

254

Daily Average Arrivals to Italy

08 August - 14 August

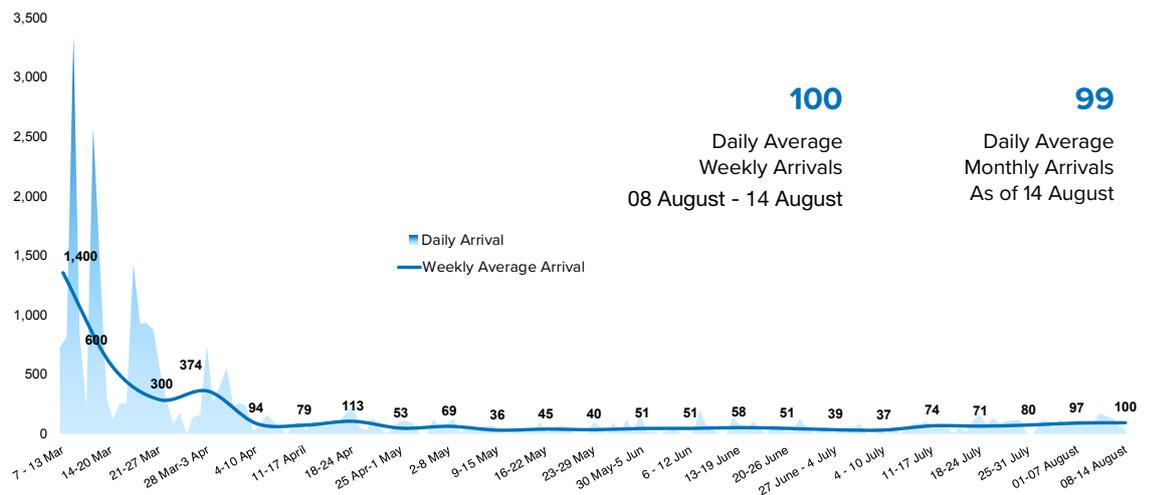
with 43% children, 36% men and 22% women, Afghans (62%) and Syrians (22%) making up the largest groups, followed by Iranians (7%) and Iraqis (6%). However following efforts by Serbian authorities to decongest the makeshift waiting areas, numbers began to gradually decrease by the end of the week to 568 people from 663, a week ago. The rest of those waiting are accommodated in the Subotica Refugee Aid Point (RAP) or in RAPs in the west of Serbia. UNHCR and partners continue to conduct protection monitoring and provide information on asylum procedures, while also supporting coordination amongst the authorities and humanitarian agencies.

The current admission rate to Hungary remains approximately 30 persons in total each day, so many asylum-seekers wait a month or more. Currently there are

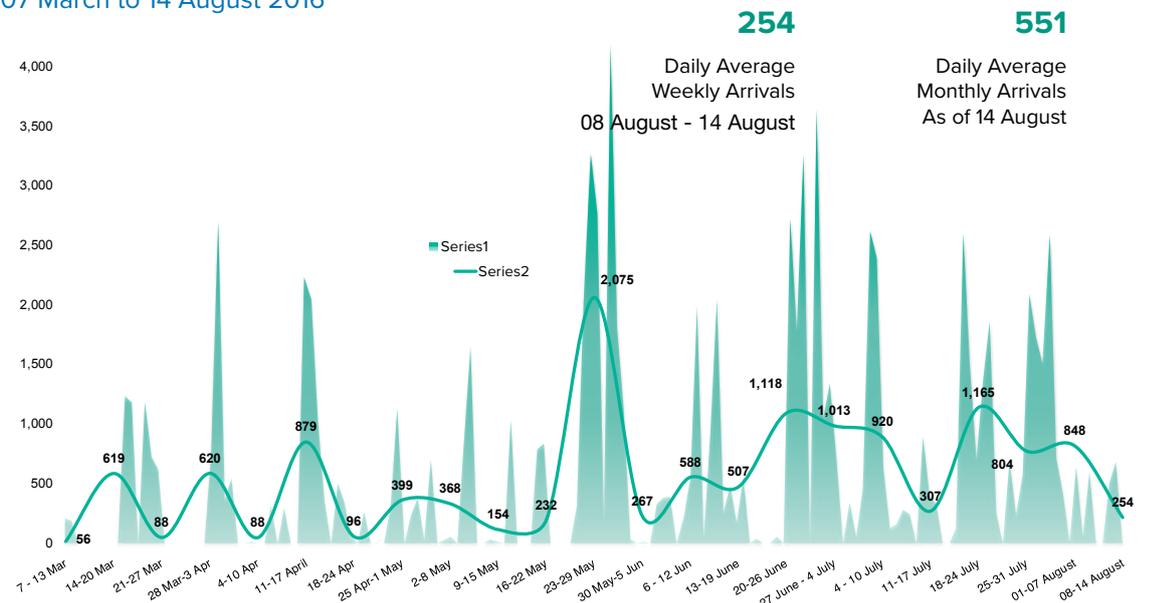
approximately 600 single men awaiting admission to Roszke transit zone alone. The low admission rates of single men (one per day per transit zone) lead many of them to resort to smugglers or try to cross the border irregularly on their own. UNHCR is providing asylum-seekers admitted into the transit zone with information and counselling on their rights and obligations in relation to the border procedures and is monitoring the process while its partner the Hungarian Helsinki Committee is providing legal aid. The Hungarian Office of Immigration and Nationality as well as government funded charities, NGOs and local aid groups continue to provide assistance to the people in the waiting areas outside the transit zones.

During the week, Hungarian police reported 74 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 453 people were pre-

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece
07 March to 14 August 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy
07 March to 14 August 2016



vented from irregularly crossing the border and another 445 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border fence. The Hungarian government decided on 10 August to deploy an additional 3,000 police personnel to the border in response to irregular migration.

Situation in Northern Italy

At Ventimiglia on the Italy-France border, some 630 people were reportedly accommodated in the official temporary facility as of 11 August awaiting to cross the border or having been prevented from entering France. Italian authorities started transferring persons wishing to apply for international protection from Ventimiglia to reception centres elsewhere in Italy. At Como on the Italy-Switzerland border, around 500 refugees and migrants were waiting to cross the border after reportedly being prevented from crossing it. Authorities were in the process of identifying a facility for the group to be transferred to. An increased number of refugees and migrants has also been noted in Milan as a result of the increased border restrictions.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Voices Concerns over Treatment of Refugees and Migrants in Bulgaria

On August 11th, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a [press statement](#) raising concern about several practices related to refugees and migrants in Bulgaria, including detention on arrival and prosecution and jailing of persons trying to leave the country; access to adequate legal representation and translation during criminal proceedings for irregular border crossings; degrading detention conditions; and persistent allegations of push-backs, physical abuse and theft by officials at state borders. As of 12 August, 3,224 refugees and migrants have entered Bulgaria irregularly in 2016.

UNHCR, with its partner Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC), has implemented a project “Free to Go, Alternatives to Detention” (supported by the European Programme for Integration and Migration - EPIM). UNHCR is encouraging the Bulgarian Government to implement the project’s recommendation to amend the Law for Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria to include alternatives to the detention of third-country nationals who are in a return procedure.

Update on Relocation

No relocations took place from Italy last week. Thus far, 961 people, only 2.4 % of the targeted 39,600 for the period of September 2015 to September 2017, have been relocated from Italy.

On 12 August, 400 pledges for Greece were opened by France. As of 12 August, 2,986 have been relocated from Greece of the 66,400 targeted total up to September 2017, representing only 4.5%.

EU Developments

Last week, the European Parliament [announced](#) that it is working on a range of initiatives to strengthen European border controls. Responding to the [latest Eurobarometer survey](#), according to which 71% of Europeans want the EU to do more to protect European borders, it has approved plans to set up an EU border control system, with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency assisting national authorities in border management. UNHCR considers that the establishment of an EU Border Agency would help to eliminate gaps in accountability in terms of compliance with fundamental rights and international protection obligations. It recommends that the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU works to ensure that compliance with fundamental rights is a central criterion for assessing the new Agency’s activities.

Key Documents from the Portal

REFUGEES & MIGRANTS SEA ARRIVALS IN EUROPE

On 2015 and in the first half of 2016, an increasing number of people used the sea to cross the Mediterranean Sea in search of safety. Most arrivals in Europe occurred in 2015, and more than 100,000 people in the first six months of 2016.

Key Figures:

- 241,263 arrivals in 2015
- 2,951 arrivals in the first six months of 2016
- 138,937 arrivals in the first six months of 2016
- 75,851 arrivals in the first six months of 2016

USD 380M for emergency response and protection

USD 465M for emergency response and protection

EUROPE'S REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE #28

22 June - 28 July 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 28 July 2016, 241,263 arrivals in Europe since the start of the emergency response in 2015.
- UNHCR is collaborating with the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC) to support the implementation of the project “Free to Go, Alternatives to Detention”.
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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

EMERGENCY RESPONSE
18 August 2016

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Timeline Overview

● Highlights

