

**Weekly Report**



**Key Figures**

**Mediterranean**  
**875**

arrivals by sea in 2017\*

**11**

dead/missing in 2017\*

**Trends of Sea Arrivals**

Last week, 373 refugees and migrants crossed by sea from Turkey to Greece despite the winter weather, an average of 53 per day. This marks a slight increase from the 346 that crossed the previous week. The majority of arrivals were on Chios then Lesbos. By 31 December, 173,447 refugees and migrants had crossed the sea to Greece in 2016, with most arrivals having taken place in the first three months of the year. Most of those who travelled this route were from the Syrian Arab Republic (47%), Afghanistan (24%), and Iraq (15%) and they collectively accounted for approximately 86% of all arrivals by sea in Greece. In December, 1,662 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Greece, an average of 54 per day, and marking a drop of 17% from arrivals in November. Compared to arrivals in December 2015, arrivals in December 2016 dropped 98% and arrivals by sea in Greece in all of 2016 dropped 80% from arrivals in 2015.

In Italy, 1,080 people arrived by sea last week. Most arrivals were the result of search and rescue operations, but five groups arrived autonomously; three departed from Tunisia and two from Turkey. These new arrivals during the last week of the year increased the total number of sea arrivals to Italy in 2016 to 181,436. Arrivals by sea in 2016 therefore marked an 18% increase in comparison to 2015 and a 7% increase in comparison to 2014. Most arrivals in 2016 were from Nigeria (21%), Eritrea (11%), and Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Gambia (each 7%). Other countries of origin included Senegal (6%), Mali (6%), Sudan (5%), Somalia (4%) and Bangladesh (4%). While arrivals in 2016 had increased significantly in November compared to 2015, in December arrivals dropped by 13% to 8,545 compared to December 2015.

**Key Developments**

**Situation in Greece**

Severe winter conditions and low temperatures were recorded throughout the country last week. In Attica, several sites saw significant snowfall. In an effort to mitigate the dire weather conditions, UNHCR completed the electrical power connection in Schisto outside Athens, and provided 98 electrical heaters so that all prefab houses and bathroom facilities in the site are heated. Insites assigned to authorities and other organizations, some improvement was recorded at the warehouse sites. In Sindos-Frakaport, four warehouse heaters are functioning and the warehouse doors are shut with plastic curtains while in Softex, the Ministry of Migration Policy is upgrading the electrical system and prefab units are now in place and in use. In western Greece, Katsikas and Faneromeni sites were fully evacuated for site rehabilitation on 30 December with the 166 people from Katsikas sent to three hotels arranged by Oxfam in Ioannina, Preveza and Igoumenitsa and those from Faneromeni moved to UNHCR's accommodation in Athens and Thessaloniki. In Filipiada, UNHCR delivered two generators to stabilize the power supply on 28 December, which will be installed by Oxfam.

Cold and heavy rains also hit the islands. On Chios, most people residing in Souda were affected, especially those in tents. UNHCR is working with partners to install electric heaters in every accommodation unit at the Souda site. A group of 300 individuals formerly residing outside the site have been provided with winterized UNHCR family tents equipped with electric heaters. UNHCR's team on Chios has arranged to send additional non-food

**Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month**  
January to 31 December 2016



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 6 January 2017

**Key Figures**

**Greece**

**373**

**Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands**

26 Dec 2016 - 1 Jan 2017

**53**

**Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands**

26 Dec 2016 - 1 Jan 2017

**Italy**

**1,080**

**Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy**

26 Dec 2016 - 1 Jan 2017

**154**

**Daily Average Arrivals to Italy**

26 Dec 2016 - 1 Jan 2017

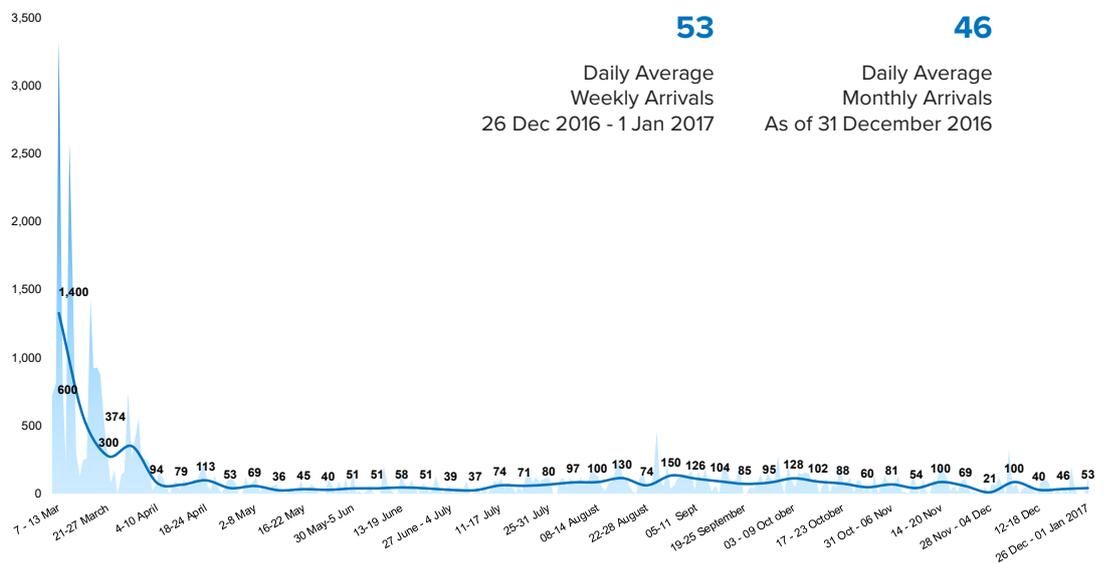
items including thermal blankets and sleeping bags as well as 45 winterization kits and 100 plastic tarpaulins for those residing in tents.

On Kos, the impact of the bad weather was diminished by previous works by UNHCR and partners, such as provision of tent flooring and creation of trenches. The winterization of the tents placed at the annex of the Kos Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) has been almost completed. Heaters and chimneys have been installed inside all tents, as well as fire extinguishers outside them. On Lesbos, the first of three UNHCR Rubb halls in Moria was set up and Samaritan's Purse (SP) is

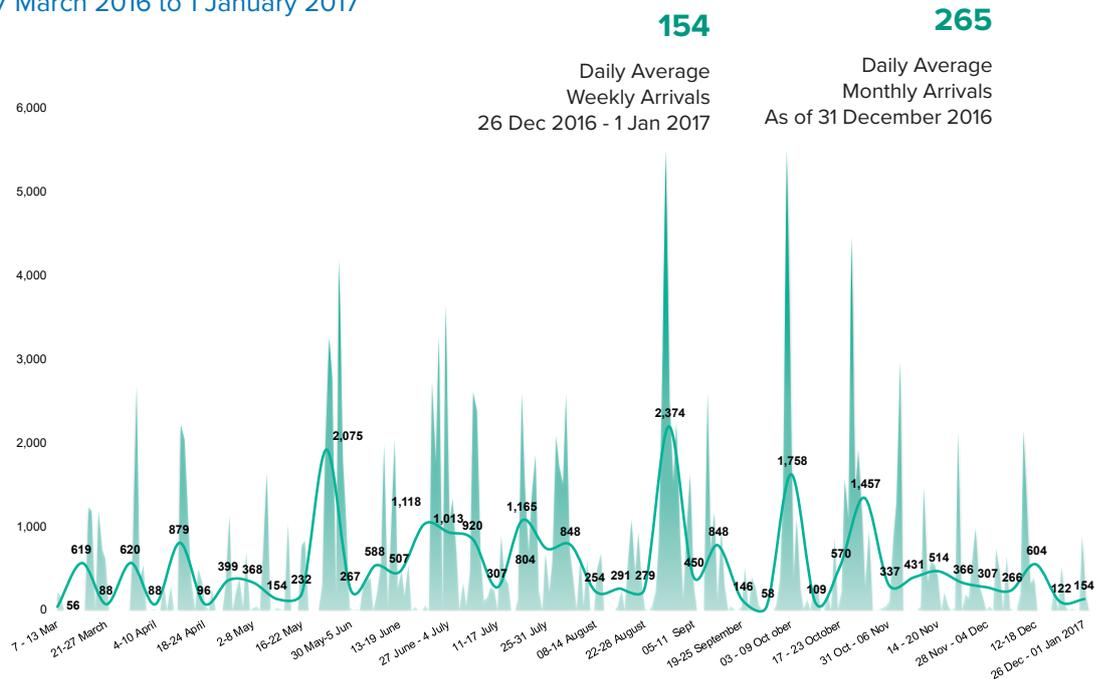
now installing the heating system. In Kara Tepe, the first prefab houses have been set up accommodating some 14 families, but power cuts are still being experienced. A technical assessment of electrical capacity at the site will be undertaken early this month. Tensions due to overcrowding of sites on the islands continued with Lesbos particularly affected and protests in Moria were recorded on almost a daily basis, including because of the slow pace of asylum procedures.

The first cash amounts were loaded on cash cards last week in northern and central Greece. Cash assistance

**Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece**  
7 March 2016 to 1 January 2017



**Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy**  
7 March 2016 to 1 January 2017



was provided in sites by UNHCR through Catholic Relief Services/Caritas (CRS) to 1,880 persons in northern Greece and to 601 persons in central Greece. CRS is providing constant assistance to solve technical issues such as the entry of the incorrect PIN, as reported by many people in Vasilika/Redestos.

The absence of permanently-appointed Directors for the RICs on the islands continues to constitute a point of concern and to lead to drawbacks in the applied procedures, as well as in coordination and decision-making within the RICs. According to the RIS Director, the necessary procedures for formally appointing the Directors in the centres are close to finalization, and this will significantly contribute to the stabilization of the situation. The announcement of the appointed Directors in the Official Gazette is imminent.

**Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey**

No returns took place from Greece to Turkey last week.

**Situation in Serbia**

Approximately 7,000 refugees and migrants remain in Serbia with some 83% staying in government shelters and the rest sleeping rough in Belgrade or at the border with Hungary. With the newly-registered asylum-seekers being referred to a new centre in the east called Divljane, there are now 16 government centres sheltering refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. Supporting access to better accommodation and services as well as helping decongest Belgrade city centre, UNHCR and partners assisted 89 newly-registered asylum-seekers with transport from Belgrade to the centres in the east. In 2016, 12,961 people lodged an intention with Serbian

authorities to seek asylum in the country. Of these, 1,120 people recorded their intention in December.

**Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border**

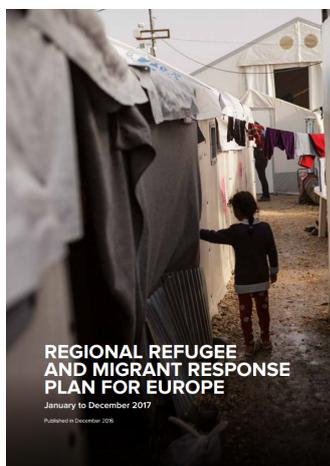
Last week, Hungarian authorities admitted 78 persons via the two 'transit zones' to seek asylum. The majority were Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis and included 35 accompanied children and one unaccompanied or separated child. Families granted entry reported waiting between four and six months for their turn on the admission waiting lists and some had spent up to nine days sleeping rough on the Serbian side of the fence prior to being admitted. By the end of last week, 91 people were sleeping outside the two 'transit zones' peaking at 126 during the reporting period, staying in makeshift tents and relying on assistance provided by different humanitarian actors from both Serbia and Hungary.

Hungarian authorities reported preventing 613 refugees and migrants from crossing the border away from official crossing points last week. A further 313 refugees and migrants were intercepted by Hungarian authorities on Hungarian territory and returned to the other side of the fence at the border with Serbia.

**Deaths along Land Routes**

Despite regular freezing temperatures being recorded across the region, many refugees and migrants continue to enter Europe or move onwards via land routes. The winter weather exacerbates the risks refugees and migrants face. In early December, it was reported that a young Iraqi woman was abandoned by smugglers in the mountains in Serbia as her group crossed from Bulgaria as she could no longer walk. Despite search and

**Key Documents from the Portal**

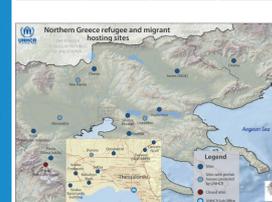


**NORTHERN GREECE – THESSALONIKI**  
FACTSHEET  
1 – 30 November 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH**

3,223	160	6,405	62,826
Accommodation places for unaccompanied children established in northern Greece by the end of November	Accommodation places for unaccompanied children established in northern Greece by the end of November	Asylum-seekers transferred by UNHCR from northern Greece to the Regional Asylum Office, Thessaloniki, medical facilities and other services in November	Total food items distributed by UNHCR in northern Greece as part of the intervention plan in October (EU, UNICEF and November (UNICEF))
314	76	13	112
Medical cases treated in the Aegean, Aegean Sea and operations sites in Greece as part of the intervention plan by the end of November	Water and sanitation facilities (showers and toilet) installed and/or repaired by UNHCR in northern Greece in November	Joint agency coordination meetings and working group established and operations planning carried out in northern Greece	Material, staff and information (MIS) staff assigned to 1000 case offices throughout

**NORTHERN GREECE FACTSHEET**



**Northern Greece refugee and migrant hotspots**

**ITALY – SEA ARRIVALS**  
UNHCR UPDATE #9  
November 2016

**KEY FIGURES\***

13,581	173,008	24,659	4,699
Persons entering the sea in November 2016	Persons entering by sea in 2016*	Unaccompanied and Separated Children (USC) arrived by sea in 2016*	USC still in camp at end of November 2016
47%	176,671	1,853	
Average 1.11 persons per 1000 sq km of sea	Total number of sea arrivals in 2016	Peak number of USC arriving by sea in 2016	

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 13,581 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in November 2016. This number constitutes a decrease compared to sea arrivals in October 2016 (22,286), but remains considerably higher than sea arrivals in the same period of 2015, when 3,212 reached the Italian shores. Most nationalities among sea arrivals are Syrians, Chinese, Iranian, Lebanese and Pakistani.
- By the end of November 2016, the total number of sea arrivals reached 173,008, a 20% increase compared with the first eleven months of 2015 (144,200).
- Between 1 January and 30 November, 24,659 unaccompanied and separated children (USC) arrived by sea. This corresponds to 14% of all sea arrivals in the first eleven months of the year, significantly higher than 2015 (7%).
- At the end of November 2016, 4,699 unaccompanied and separated children were accommodated in reception centres. Italy, 71% of whom were accommodated in temporary facilities.
- In November 2016, 402 unaccompanied and separated children were returned to France, Spain, Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland, within the EU relocation scheme. Since the adoption of the September 2016 EU Council decision on relocation, only 1,853 persons (7% of the 26,382) sought have been returned from Italy.



**Sea Arrivals 2016 by region by type of distribution**

rescue efforts, she had passed away before she could be rescued. In Turkey, on 27 December, the body of a man believed to be a refugee or migrant was found close to the Bulgarian border. It is believed he died of hypothermia.

On the morning of 29 December, a vehicle believed to have been driven by a smuggler and carrying refugees and migrants, including from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, nine of whom were children, crashed in eastern Serbia, leaving one woman and two children dead. Several others were badly injured. The survivors were all immediately taken care of by the medical services in Nis and remain hospitalized. UNHCR and partners provided assistance including with translation services and counseling.

#### [Update on Relocation](#)

A total of 216 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece last week to Spain (198) and Finland (18). A total of 7,665 asylum-seekers have either left or are scheduled to leave by 16 February 2017 for another EU Member State under the relocation scheme. The overall number of pledges for relocations from Greece

still remains low at 13,659 (20.5% of the targeted 66,400). In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted 133 relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and 236 received transportation services last week.

There were no relocations from Italy during the last week and so the total number of asylum-seekers relocated from Italy in the 16 months that the Emergency Relocation Mechanism has been implemented remains 2,356 (7% of the 39,600 target). No unaccompanied or separated children have yet been relocated from Italy.

#### [EU-Related Developments](#)

On 1 January 2017, Malta took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union from Slovakia for a period of six months. Migration will be one of Malta's [priorities](#) for its presidency. UNHCR has issued [recommendations](#) to the Maltese and Estonian (July-December 2017) presidencies.

## Timeline Overview

● Highlights

