



UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

KEY FIGURES

303,838

Refugees and migrants arriving by sea to Europe in 2016 (as of 30 September).

3,498

Refugees and migrants estimated to have died / gone missing at sea in 2016 (as of 30 September). Compared to 3,771 in 2015.

166,824

Estimated sea arrivals in Greece in 2016 (as of 30 September) compared to 385,069 during the same period in 2015

132,043

Estimated sea arrivals in Italy in 2016 (as of 30 September) compared to 132,071 during the same period in 2015

19,001

Estimated unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) arrived by sea to Italy in 2016 compared to 12,360 total UASC in 2015.

USD 669.9M

Total 2016 requirements for UNHCR's activities in the context of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe.

USD 439.8M

Funding received for UNHCR's activities thus far in Europe in 2016.

PRIORITIES

- Boost reception capacity and provide emergency assistance in receiving countries through support for States, civil society and local communities.
- Strengthen protection systems and support access to territory for people in need of international protection including through presence and capacity building.
- Increase strategic messaging and advocacy to and about people of concern.

EUROPE'S REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE #31

September 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 30 September 2016, some 303,838 people had crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. During the reporting period, the trend in sea arrivals through the Eastern Mediterranean was similar with those in August, with 3,080 people arriving to Greece. As of 30 September, 132,043 persons had arrived by sea to Italy in 2016, compared to 132,071 at the end of September 2015.
- During September, UNHCR and its partners distributed over 107,649 core relief items to refugees and migrants residing in sites on the Greek islands and mainland.
- In Serbia, the situation in the north at the border with Hungary continued to stabilize, with less than 150 asylum-seekers camping in the open on the Serbian side of the border. This compares to a peak of over 1,000 in mid-July. In addition, a total of 5,700 refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers were accommodated in governmental facilities, including in five Asylum Centres, four Transit Centres and one Reception Centre.
- As refugees and migrants were increasingly prevented from moving onwards from Italy, numbers at border points grew in Ventimiglia on the French border and Como on the Swiss border, with shelters reaching full capacity or more.
- The joint 2016 winners of [UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award](#), Konstantinos Mitragas on behalf of the Hellenic Rescue Team (HRT) and Efi Latsoudi from "PIKPA village", a community-run accommodation area on the Greek island of Lesbos, were honored at an official ceremony in Geneva.



The HRT and Efi Latsoudi received the 2016 Nansen Refugee Award at a ceremony in Geneva, for their outstanding work during 2015 when they helped thousands of refugees arriving in Greece. © UNHCR/Mark Henley

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Trends of sea arrivals

In the month of September, 16,975 persons arrived to Italy by sea, bringing the total of sea arrivals in the first nine months of the year to 132,043. This is almost equal to the first nine months of last year when 132,071 arrived by sea. The main nationalities of persons arriving by sea to Italy are Nigeria (21%), Eritrea (12%), The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea (7% each) and Sudan (6%). Arrivals of Syrians and Eritreans to Italy have decreased considerably compared to last year. As of 30 September 2016, over 14% of all sea arrivals to Italy (19,001 individuals) were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The trend of sea arrivals in the Eastern Mediterranean remained generally consistent in September with 3,080 compared to 3,447 arrivals in August. On the Aegean Islands, the arrivals are still much lower than during the same period in 2015 as well as the first months of 2016. By 30 September, 166,824 people had crossed the sea to Greece in 2016, compared to 385,069 in 2015. Since April, only 15,372 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece, in comparison to 372,628 in the same period in 2015.

Relocation

According to the [European Commission's sixth report on relocation and resettlement](#) published on 28 September, the total number of formal pledges by Member States of relocation amounts to 13,585 (3,809 to Italy and 9,776 to Greece). As of 30 September, 4,563 asylum-seekers (only 6.8% of the targeted 66,400) were relocated from Greece to other EU countries. In the month of September, 238 persons were transferred to Finland, Switzerland, Portugal and Romania, bringing the total of relocations from Italy at the end of September to 1,259 (3.2% of the 39,600 target).

Situation Overview in Greece

On the mainland, on 01 September, the Greek Asylum Service started the registration of asylum-seekers who were previously pre-registered through the Asylum Service's pre-registration exercise supported by UNHCR and EASO. UNHCR's support to this process included country-wide transportation from sites to the Asylum Service offices and back, as well as assistance with interpretation.

In mid-September, due to the rise in security incidents in several sites in Attica, security measures were taken by the site managers from the Greek authorities to ensure the safety and protection of asylum-seekers and humanitarian staff alike. UNHCR directly supported the site management in Eleonas by providing a container used to control access at the main entrance of Eleonas I. A registration process was started in Eleonas I and II, with individuals requested to provide their registration number upon entry and exit from the site. The measure has so far proved to be successful as visitors are complying, and prospective plans are being discussed to ensure 24-hour presence of staff at the gate in the foreseeable future. Issues related to the lack of security in some of the sites remain of grave concern requiring further urgent action by security and law enforcement authorities, as this continues to impact those living in the sites as well as humanitarian aid workers.

On the Aegean Islands, Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) continue to face serious challenges with capacity and shelter allocation for new arrivals with the continued arrivals of refugees and migrants adding additional pressure on the already overstretched reception facilities. Maximum capacity has been reached at majority of the sites on Leros, Chios, Samos and Lesbos. On Chios for instance, maximum capacity has been reached in Vial RIC and the informal sites of Souda and Dipethe thus posing challenges in sheltering new arrivals. UNHCR and partners are continuing with efforts to identify appropriate additional space. Local authorities are making preparations for a new site on Samos with the support of UNHCR but it will not be ready for at least three months.

On Monday 19 September, a fire broke out at the Moria RIC on the island of Lesbos following clashes between residents. A large number of refugees and migrants were forced to leave the government-run site. Some 4,400 people were accommodated in the facility at the time. Around 95 unaccompanied children were transferred to the Pikpa reception site nearby. Based on initial reports, the fire did not cause any casualties but at least 30 people were reported to have suffered

minor injuries and were taken to hospital. Over 50 UNHCR Refugee Housing Units, accommodating some 800 people, were completely destroyed and there was other material damage to the site, including the destruction of tents. UNHCR put up family tents as an emergency accommodation measure for those affected while non-governmental organizations provided tents, mattresses, blankets and water. [UNHCR has repeatedly called upon the security](#) and law enforcement authorities to increase security to protect refugees, migrants, aid workers and civil servants working in these sites. Increasing security would also help decrease security concerns of local residents living nearby.

Poor living conditions, combined with a prevailing feeling of uncertainty, regularly fuel despair and frustration among asylum-seekers in Greece. UNHCR is working with the authorities and has called for the urgent transfer of unaccompanied and separated children, one of the most vulnerable groups, to the mainland as well as shorter waiting periods for asylum claims (particularly on the islands), faster registration and processing of cases for all nationalities, and speedier returns of those who are not in need of international protection. UNHCR will continue to support the authorities to find solutions to the overcrowding. UNHCR staff helps identify, inform and transfer asylum-seekers by ferry and bus to mainland. In the case of unaccompanied children, UNHCR is helping to find adequate accommodation so that they can be moved to the mainland.

Situation Overview in Italy

On 30 September, 159,419 persons were accommodated in reception centres in Italy. Among these, 123,178 persons were in temporary reception facilities, 820 in hotspots, and 13,229 in first line reception centres. Additionally, as of 12 September 2016, 22,192 persons were accommodated in second line facilities, i.e. the so-called SPRAR centres.

In Ventimiglia, at the Italy-France border, the Red Cross-run centre reportedly hosted up to 800 persons, mainly Sudanese nationals, despite a capacity of 360 places. Furthermore, the nearby church hosted approximately 100 persons, mainly from Eritrea, despite a capacity of approximately 50 places.

In Como, at the Italy-Switzerland border, an official transit centre was opened on 19 September to accommodate persons who had been camping at the Como train station. The facility is run by the Red Cross and can host up to 300 persons. By 22 September, the transit centre was at full capacity with persons hosted there mainly originating from Eritrea and Ethiopia.

In close cooperation with the government and other partners, UNHCR in Italy is engaged at border points, in particular in areas of sea arrivals and hotspots, as well as in the strengthening of the reception system. UNHCR further provides support to the Italian authorities in the identification and referral of vulnerable groups. UNHCR also participates directly in refugee status determination in the decentralized Territorial Commissions and advises the government on the reform of the asylum system as well as contributes to the implementation of the resettlement programme.

Furthermore, UNHCR in Italy supports the government in its current efforts to coordinate the response to the arrival of persons seeking international protection, for instance, in participating in the National Coordination Group of the Ministry of Interior advising key governmental counterparts during policy formulation and legislative development. With regard to sea arrivals, UNHCR is engaged in monitoring disembarkation procedures and providing counselling services having deployed 10 teams in various locations in the south of Italy. The work also includes activities to ensure that vulnerable persons are identified quickly and appropriately, for instance, unaccompanied children are referred to the national child protection system while traumatized individuals are identified quickly after disembarkation, receive initial treatment and are guided towards further support. In this context, UNHCR has deployed expert teams on child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR is also directly involved in monitoring reception standards. Finally, UNHCR is supporting the intra-European relocation programme by providing advice and counselling support to potential beneficiaries. Most of these activities are either funded by the Government of Italy or by EU AMIF.

Situation Overview in Serbia, Hungary, and at the Serbia-Hungary border

The total number of refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers in Serbia rose from 4,700 at the beginning of the month to 5,700 at the end of September. Based on available government and UNHCR data on this population, around 45% are adult men, 18% are adult women and 37% are children, with 53% from Afghanistan, 14% from Syria, 10% from Pakistan, 8%

from Iraq, 4% from Iran and 11% from other countries. Over 80% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including in five Asylum Centres, four Transit Centres and one Reception Centre, with many facilities consequently exceeding their capacities.

The situation in the north at the border with Hungary continued to stabilize, with less than 150 asylum-seekers camping in the open on the Serbian side of the border waiting to be admitted into Hungarian transit zones, compared to a peak of over 1,000 in mid-July. Hungarian authorities continued to admit around 30 asylum-seekers each day into the transit zones in Röszke and Tompa. At the same time, in September, UNHCR and partners encountered over 360 individuals claiming they were pushed back from Hungary without being allowed access to asylum procedures/protection in Hungary.

In September, Ministry of Interior asylum statistics indicate that 951 intentions to seek asylum were registered in Serbia, while in the same period, one asylum-seeker was granted refugee status and another was granted subsidiary protection. From January to September 2016, 68 first instance decisions were issued, including 17 persons granted subsidiary protection, 12 refugee status and 50 applications were rejected, compared to 29 decisions (15 refugee status, nine subsidiary protection and three rejections) in the same period of 2015.

A total of 1,037 asylum-seekers and migrants entered Hungary in September out of which the police apprehended 152 people inside the country for crossing the border irregularly, while 885 people entered through the transit zones on the border with Serbia. Since new Hungarian border regulations came into force on 05 July 2016, the police reported that 11,743 people have been prevented from accessing Hungarian territory with 6,420 people prevented crossing the border irregularly and 5,323 intercepted inside Hungary within 8km of the border and escorted back to the other side of the border fence. UNHCR is providing asylum-seekers admitted into the transit zones with information and counselling on their rights and obligations 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.

Károly Konrád, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Interior announced on 13 September 2016 that Bicske reception centre will close on 31 December 2016, therefore no more asylum-seekers are currently arriving at the camp. According to Konrád, the government is not planning to replace the reception centre with another facility elsewhere as border controls will be further strengthened by a new fence, the deployment of additional 3,000 border patrol personnel, and the application of strict legislative measures. On 20 September, the UNHCR's Regional Representative for Central Europe sent a letter to the Hungarian Government to express UNHCR's serious concerns regarding the deteriorating reception conditions in Hungary and the gradual erosion of the legal framework and asylum system since 2015. The letter referred to reported 'push-back' incidents associated with excessive use of force, decreasing reception capacity, the need to counter xenophobia in the national public discourse and misleading references to UNHCR statistics in the context of the campaign for the referendum on EU relocation quotas.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Protection, Humanitarian Assistance and Technical Support

Greece

Achievements and Impact

- In early September, heavy rains over two days caused flooding in 12 sites in northern Greece, affecting approximately 2,000 refugees. Following a rapid response assessment by a UNHCR Technical Team, UNHCR provided almost 8,000 non-food items, including 5,700 medium thermal blankets, 1,400 raincoats, 400 plastic sheets, 30 family tents, 145 plastic tarpaulins, 60 mats and 70 wooden pallets. All interventions were facilitated on the ground by UNHCR, IRC and DRC with assistance from volunteers from the refugee communities. Towards the end of September, heavy rains and lower temperatures impacted the already poor health and shelter conditions at Kipselochori site in central Greece. UNHCR worked with authorities and partners to provide appropriate assistance, including shelter improvements and providing winterized non-food items such as blankets.

- Considerable coordination efforts and joint actions have been undertaken to respond to the winterization needs across the country and ensure that the work among the different agencies are effective. Multiple meetings were conducted in September, and task forces were created so as to respond in a timely manner to the needs and ensure follow-up actions from relevant sectors– with the emphasis on shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and non-food items (NFIs). Initial discussions about the distribution of NFIs in all the sites took place in order to make sure that all sites are covered with essential winter NFI items, since cash assistance is not yet available in all sites.
- As the situation in the sites continues to be difficult and worsening as winter approaches, UNHCR has started leading the development of an inter-agency national Urban Living strategy. Two coordination and strategy development meetings have been conducted and a draft strategy outline has been developed and shared with a smaller planning group. The full strategy will be outlined in October.
- Following detailed consultations between the Police, Registration and Identification Service (RIS) and the Ministry of Migration Policy (MoMP) and UNHCR on alleviating the overcrowded sites from Chios and Lesbos, UNHCR FO Attica gradually began the safe transfer of refugees and migrants arriving at Piraeus Port to Elefsina, Andravida and Trikala sites.
- Throughout September, coordination efforts to support the Government of Greece in ensuring access to education for school-aged children living both in the sites and in urban areas was ongoing. UNHCR worked with UNICEF and Save the Children and the Education Working Group partners on reaching out to communities to ensure local support for the introduction of reception classes for school-aged refugee children.
- UNHCR through partners is providing 488 places for UASC in 20 transit or longer-term shelters. Out of these, 12 structures are located in the mainland. UNHCR is working to open seven new centres to provide 216 additional places by the end of the year and 50% of the total places for UASC in the country. As an interim measure and to ensure proximity with their community of origin at the sites, three Safe Spaces for UASC, with the capacity of 90 children, continue to be fully operational in Diavata, Alexandria and Lagkadikia. On Samos UNHCR provided 43 accommodation places for UASC and 48 accommodation places for asylum-seekers with specific needs. On Kos, UNHCR provided accommodation to 65 UASC at the UNHCR-Praxis (32 minors) and UNHCR-Save the Children (33 minors) transit facilities.
- In support of the Greek authorities' efforts to expand reception capacity for asylum-seekers, UNHCR accommodation project funded by the European Union reached 13,036 places, representing more than 65% of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016. During the reporting period, 2,465 new accommodation spaces were established.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Winterization of sites remains the principle concern as there are still sites that will remain tented. The Government of Greece has not yet communicated a finalized winter plan. The dire situation and inadequate living conditions in the warehouses on the Greek mainland are of great concern and the number of people likely to remain in tented sites is being assessed. Additionally, UNHCR and partners have been working on an analysis of the current site populations and capacity in order to be able to make recommendations to the Greek government on where people who are scheduled to remain in tented sites could be moved.
- The exact number and location of the urban population, including mainly Athens and Thessaloniki, is not clear and numbers are growing larger along with the need for service provision for those residing out of sites.
- Only a small number of refugee children have started school in Greece and additional efforts will be required to enable children from sites to have access to education.
- The slow pace of registration and processing of asylum claims, particularly of some nationalities on the islands, and safety risks incurred by refugees and migrants in Greece contribute to the deteriorating situation within some sites and is of serious concern. UNHCR has repeatedly been calling upon the security and law enforcement authorities to increase security to protect refugees, migrants, aid workers and civil servants working in these sites. In addition, poor living conditions, combined with a prevailing feeling of uncertainty, regularly fuel despair and frustration among asylum-seekers in Greece. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support and assistance to the Government including in areas such as information provision, asylum counseling, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, improving shelter and water/sanitation conditions, provision of non-food items, expanding accommodation places and site management support.

The Western Balkans and Hungary

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Achievements and Impact

- In the Transit Centre Tabanovce, the regular distribution of UNHCR NFIs was amended and now functions on an 'as needed' basis, in order to best identify and assess the needs of refugees and migrants in the centre. Hygiene packages continue to be distributed on a regular basis and individuals are able to approach humanitarian workers in the centre and request other NFIs at any time.
- As the temperature dropped during September, the Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), together with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) staff checked the panel heaters on site and all of them (18 in total) are in working order. During the third week of September, the City Red Cross (CRC) started with the distribution of blankets in the Transit Centres. Blankets will be collected and washed every week as usual practice.
- In Tabanovce Transit Centre, five battery operated showers were installed by DRC as the existing ones were broken or stolen; toilets near the kitchen were clogged and were not functioning for some period (locked by MLSP) until the public company for water and sanitation repaired the plumbing so it is now ready for use.
- UNHCR met with UNICEF, La Strada, MLSP and SOS Children's Village on 02 September to discuss possibilities of implementation of formal education for children in the transit centres. An informal meeting with MLSP and other NGO partners took place to discuss the changes at the distribution points in the transit centres, new containers for accommodation of vulnerable categories, recent medical issues, and La Strada's workshops.
- A monitoring visit by UNHCR Programme and Protection to implementing partners in Tabanovce Transit Centre was conducted on 27 September to see the implementation rate of the project activities and discuss with the persons of concern their needs. UNHCR continues with daily monitoring of the Reception Centre for asylum-seekers in Vizbegovo. The number of persons sheltered during the reporting period was 24, of which eight were from Afghanistan, 10 from Syria, four from Serbia, and one from Bulgaria.
- A coordination meeting was conducted on 22 September in UNHCR's office to discuss the recent changes that UNHCR made regarding the distribution of NFI's and the removal of refugee housing units. UNHCR's partners and other NGOs also provided an update on their recent activities. Participants included CMC, MLSP, LaStrada, MYLA, CRC, DRC, IOM and IAD.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Onwards movement from Tabanovce Transit Centre to Serbia continued with refugees and migrants making use of smuggling networks. The total population in both transit centres (Tabanovce and Vinojug) during the first week of September was 197, dropped to 187 by the end of September.
- Irregular movement through the country continues during the reporting period though the number of push-backs from and into the country has decreased as the month passed by. The presence of a high number of persons potentially in need of international protection in the Lipkovo region on the country's northern border with Serbia, known as an area utilized by smugglers, remained an issue considering the regular presence of smugglers and lack of security forces in the area.
- Lack of access to education in accordance with international standards for children in the transit centres regardless of the legal status of their parents was raised as a concern during the Protection Coordination Meeting on 02 September and in a separate meeting with MLSP and UNICEF, La Strada, MLSP and SOS Children's Village.
- The problem of persons being denied access to the asylum procedure persists through the month of September, with several cases reported, as a result of a lack of a national system which is sensitive to protection profiling and referral to adequate services. UNHCR is advocating and intervening with national authorities with the aim to support a strengthened national protection system.

Serbia

Achievements and Impact

- On 06 September, the 11th UN Country Team Partners' Briefing was held in Belgrade. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator informed some 60 representatives of the diplomatic corps, donors and NGOs on recent developments, as well as current

opportunities and challenges in the refugee/migration situation and the respective UN Country Team response, coordinated by UNHCR.

- On 27 September, UNHCR convened a meeting of the Refugee Protection Working Group, which gathered over 90 representatives of the government, authorities, civil society, UN, international organizations and donors to discuss and agree on urgent coordinated steps to strongly support the implementation of the 'Response Plan for an Increased Number of Migrants on the Territory of the Republic of Serbia for the period October 2016 – March 2017', in line with the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) and other applicable coordination structures. Several participants requested the Ministry of Interior to resume registration, profiling, identification and referral of special needs for all refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.
- In September, four refugees departed Serbia after having been accepted for resettlement in Norway and Germany, the latter under the Humanitarian Visa Category. UNHCR continues to promote and facilitate orderly legal pathways for refugees to access effective protection as one way to prevent the chaotic situation in 2015 characterised by large onward movements on the 'Balkan route'.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- An increase in the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants encountered and assisted in Belgrade city centre was observed, with over 600 present during the day and a similar number sleeping rough in public spaces overnight. Most were from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and Iraq. The authorities continued encouraging the unregistered refugees and migrants to move to the Asylum Centre (AC) of Krnjaca, which sheltered over 1,000 persons overnight. Nevertheless, a number of them continued to commute to central Belgrade during the day to benefit from warm meals distributed there by civil society organizations. UNHCR continued advocating and coordinating with relevant agencies in Belgrade to address this issue.

Croatia

Achievements and Impact

- The first group of relocated asylum-seekers from Italy, four individuals, following recognition of refugee status in July, received government-provided accommodation in Zagreb for the duration of two years in line with the national asylum legislation. UNHCR implementing partner, Croatian Red Cross, is supporting them in the integration process.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the month of September, the capacity of Porin reception centre for asylum-seekers in Croatia was overstretched due to a slight increase in the number of new arrivals (55 in September compared to 43 in August 2016) and Dublin returns (191 Dublin transfer cases received by the end of September). UNHCR observed shortcomings in security arrangements, provision of health care and delays in taking asylum applications from the recently-arrived individuals. UNHCR has communicated the observed gaps with the Ministry of Interior for follow-up.

Slovenia

Achievements and Impact

- The Regional Representative for Central Europe visited the Logatec branch of the Asylum Home and spoke with the accommodated Afghan asylum-seekers, as well as with the Syrian and Iraqi families of relocated asylum-seekers from Greece. The Regional Representative assessed the facility as being very good and reassured the asylum-seekers of the positive environment that they have the chance to become part of.
- The 5th Summer Course for border police and entry officials in the framework of Border Management and Protection of Refugees was organized in Slovenia. This year's course include issues such as the identification of challenges in managing borders, examining basic elements of screening mechanisms, identifying good practices and exchanging national techniques for screening, and improving communication with refugees and migrants. Participants came from FYR Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Montenegro with facilitators coming also from Slovenia, Belgium, UK, Malta and Switzerland.
- UNHCR Regional Representative for Central Europe participated as a speaker on the panel 'Human Security: You and I Matter' of the 11th Bled Strategic Forum in Slovenia. In her intervention, she reminded the audience that forced displacement is a global problem and solving it will require a global solution. The strategic forum was

launched in 2006 and brings together decision-makers from different fields to encourage open debate on contemporary political, security and development challenges, and to search for new ideas and solutions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The following concerns continue to be highlighted by asylum-seekers: insufficient information on asylum procedures, healthcare, education and labour and inadequate quality of provision of legal aid.
- Further preparedness in relation to contingency planning for a possible increased influx of refugees into the country is needed, in particular by national NGOs.

Hungary

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR staff continue to be present in Röszke and Tompa transit zones to monitor the admission procedure and coordinate referrals of vulnerable cases for their prioritized entry to Hungary as well as to advocate for asylum-seekers who miss their turn to enter due to reasons beyond their control. UNHCR provides information to people waiting outside and to those admitted into the transit zones, including on the national asylum procedure and related rights and obligations.
- UNHCR partners Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) and Cordelia Foundation conducted a joint monitoring/assessment visit to the transit zones with lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists and interpreters. This was Cordelia's first visit to the transit zones where asylum-seekers are held at the facility for a maximum of 28 days without access to psychosocial support. Subject to government authorization, Cordelia is planning to conduct regular visits to the transit zones to provide psychosocial counselling and support. During this visit, two victims of torture and one asylum-seeker were identified to be in need of psychological support. UNHCR advocated for their transfer to open reception centres where they can have better access to the required treatment.
- UNHCR Hungary is coordinating with NGOs and local aid groups to complement the assistance currently provided to the people awaiting admission to the transit zones by UNHCR Serbia and its partners. The Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN) continued to provide daily cold food packages both inside the transit zones and in the waiting areas, while several Hungarian NGOs contributed by distributing food and NFIs. IOM provided NFIs including underwear, sweaters, cleaning equipment (buckets, mops, brooms, shovels and washing liquid) and playing cards to OIN for distribution within the transit zones. Moreover, aid group Sirius Help gained access to the transit zones and is now present twice a week providing assistance to people in the waiting areas.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- By the end of September, 202 refugees and migrants (84 in Röszke and 118 in Tompa) were in the waiting areas without adequate shelter, awaiting admission into the transit zones while the daily admission rate remained 15 people per day in each transit zone. The average waiting time for families and UACs to enter the transit zones ranged from 30-75 days and for single men up to 90 days. Families transported by SCRM to the transit zones from various reception facilities in Serbia spent two to seven days in the waiting areas prior to being admitted into the transit zones. UNHCR Hungary advised OIN to prepare a weekly admission plan which can be shared with SCRM through the community leaders in order to avoid people having to stay at the waiting area for days after being transferred from reception centres in Serbia.
- OIN is encountering delays in processing admission according to the admission lists as sometimes the language and family composition of the asylum-seekers indicated on the list is not accurately recorded resulting in postponement of entry until the required interpreter is arranged or family links are verified. UNHCR Hungary is coordinating with UNHCR Serbia to ensure that required adjustments are made in the admission lists by SCRM.
- On 02 September, UNHCR visited Körmend temporary reception facility which hosted 20 male asylum-seekers. They complained about cold nights and the inadequacy of tented accommodation. The management of the facility is not aware of any plan to terminate the operation of the facility during the approaching autumn/winter. Instead, there are apparently plans to provide winterized tents. Two new social workers have been employed as of 01 September indicating that OIN will continue to use this reception facility. UNHCR also visited Kiskunhalas open reception facility and found that measures have been taken towards improving conditions for children. Since the previous visit, the management had arranged for the enrolment of children in the public education system as advised by UNHCR. However, many parents are showing little interest to enroll their children in school as they mainly consider the

facility as a temporary stop before moving onwards to Western Europe. Turnover continues to remain high in both facilities. UNHCR is following up with the concerned authorities and partners to address the identified gaps.

- UNHCR conducted a visit to Békéscsaba and Kiskunhalas asylum detention centres which both had witnessed a significant decrease in the number of detainees and at the time of the visit held 59 and 102 asylum-seekers, respectively. The majority of detainees were pending transfer to Bulgaria under the Dublin Regulation. UNHCR observed improvements in the services in both facilities. The management in Békéscsaba hired five additional staff including three social assistants, a sports trainer and a baker, and established an open fitness park and procured eight new computers made available by AMIF funding. In Kiskunhalas, UNHCR received positive feedback from detained asylum-seekers in relation to improved sanitation and hygiene conditions, access to clothing and treatment by the police. However, some gaps remain as UNHCR observed that hygiene conditions deteriorated in Békéscsaba with presence of cockroaches and other insects in the accommodation section of the facility where all washrooms were dirty. Furthermore, in Kiskunhalas asylum-seekers complained about insufficient amounts of food, especially for those who decline to eat the meals mixed with meat for religious considerations. Moreover, asylum-seekers complained about lack of access to information about their cases and the absence of sufficient interpretation services. UNHCR is following up with the relevant authorities to address the identified gaps.

Working in partnership

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR supports the government's coordination efforts at central and local level in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Turkey. In Hungary, UNHCR chairs a coordination forum including UN agencies, IGOs, NGO partners and non-state institutions. This includes support to crisis management teams and facilitation of general and sectoral coordination meetings. Besides cooperation with governments, UNHCR also operates closely with the European Commission and relevant EU Agencies, including Frontex and EASO. A full list of partners is available [here](#).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2016 (RMRP), co-led by UNHCR and IOM, brings together more than 60 UN agencies and NGOs in response to the refugee and migrant crisis affecting Southern Europe and the Western Balkans.

As of 20 October 2016, the RMRP is 66% funded; USD 439.8 million in earmarked contributions have been received against USD 669.9 million in total requirements.

UNHCR is appealing for USD 380.3 million under the framework of the RMRP, against which USD 209.2 million in earmarked contributions has been received (55% funded).

Detailed funding information on the RMRP (inter-agency and UNHCR-specific) is available [here](#).

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to its operations in response to the emergency response in Europe, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unrestricted and broadly earmarked funds.

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ANNEXES

Europe Refugee Emergency Daily map indicating capacity and occupancy (Governmental figures) As of 30 September 2016 08:00 a.m. EET



Presence and capacity are based on Governmental figures from the Coordination Centre for the Management of the Refugee Crisis, as of 30/09/2016 08:00 a.m. Eastern European Time. Online map with additional information: <http://www.unhcr.gr/sites>



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Links:

- UNHCR, [With 1 human in every 113 affected, forced displacement hits record high](#), 20 June.
- UNHCR, [UNHCR High Profile Supporter Theo James visits Greece](#), 15 June.
- UNHCR, [UNHCR and partners revise funding needs for Greece & Balkans](#), 10 June.
- UNHCR, [Mediterranean death toll soars as 204,000 cross in first 5 months of 2016](#), 31 May.