



# REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN (RMRP) FOR EUROPE

## Overview

Arrivals in the Mediterranean from 01 January until 30 June 2017 total 102,847 (Greece, Italy, Spain and Cyprus, including arrivals to the Canary Islands and by land to Spain). This compares to 231,075 for the same period in 2016. In the first half of the year, 9,286 persons arrived in **Greece** by sea (158,377 arrived during same period in 2016, a decrease by 94%). Over these six months, Chios recorded the majority of sea arrivals, followed by Lesbos and Samos. From 01 January to 30 June 2017, 83,752 persons arrived in Italy by sea (a 19% increase compared to the 70,222 that arrived during the same period in 2016). Most arrivals to **Italy** departed from Libya and mainly originate from sub-Saharan African countries but also from Bangladesh and Morocco. Between January and June 2017, some 9,507 persons arrived in **Spain**, a 93% increase compared to the 4,936 that arrived in the same period last year. 6,524 persons arrived by sea and 2,983 (including 681 Syrians) arrived by land to Ceuta and Melilla. In total, 302 persons (ten boats) arrived by boat to **Cyprus** between January and June 2017.

## Key achievements

### Greece

UNHCR's Urban Accommodation Scheme, currently funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), has benefited some 31,800 people since the launch of the programme. As of 30 June 2017, 17,852 places were available in UNHCR's Urban Accommodation Scheme: in apartments (13,398 places), buildings (2,253), hotels (917 places), Government-run shelter 'Agia Eleni' (508), facilities for unaccompanied children (718 places) and through a host family programme (58 places). Between January and June 2017, UNHCR supported the transfer of 5,585 asylum seekers from the islands to the mainland by coordinating transfers on the ground and covering the cost of transportation for those referred to UNHCR's accommodation scheme and to sites in the mainland. UNHCR continued the gradual distribution of the UNHCR Greece Cash Alliance (GCA) cash cards, which by the end of July will be the only card used in Greece by asylum seekers. As of 30 June, UNHCR distributed 8,780 UNHCR GCA cash cards. In total, 33,413 people benefited from UNHCR's Cash Assistance in Greece in June, both directly from UNHCR and indirectly from UNHCR-funded GCA partners.

New sites in Thiva, Serres, Drama and Kavala, rehabilitated with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), were opened and allowed the beneficiaries, who were accommodated in temporary sites until then, to be settled in a protected environment. IOM, as the Site Management Support agency, is present on a daily basis ensuring safe and quality living conditions in these sites. From April to June 2017, 2,500 children benefited from IOM services, including transportation and distribution of school kits allowing them to access education.

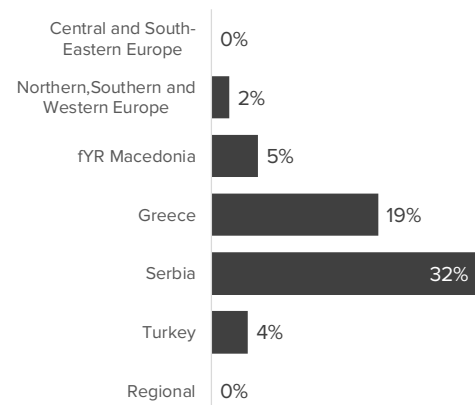
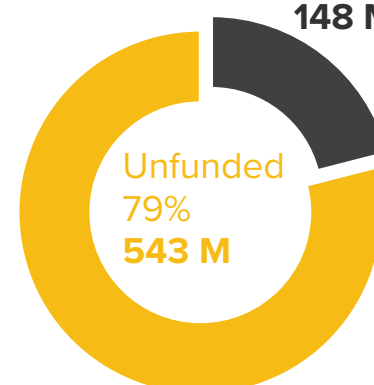
UNICEF supported the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) to process some 2,300 referral requests and place at least 820 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in 2017, while improving overall standards and building the capacity of service providers in shelters for UASC. UNHCR has also begun working with the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court on the diversification of alternative care options in Greece to include Semi-Independent Living solutions for older adolescents. On 14 June, UNHCR and the General Secretariat on Gender Equality signed a

Up to **342,000** people  
Population planning figures

FUNDING (AS OF 1 JULY)  
**USD 691 M**

RMRP requirements

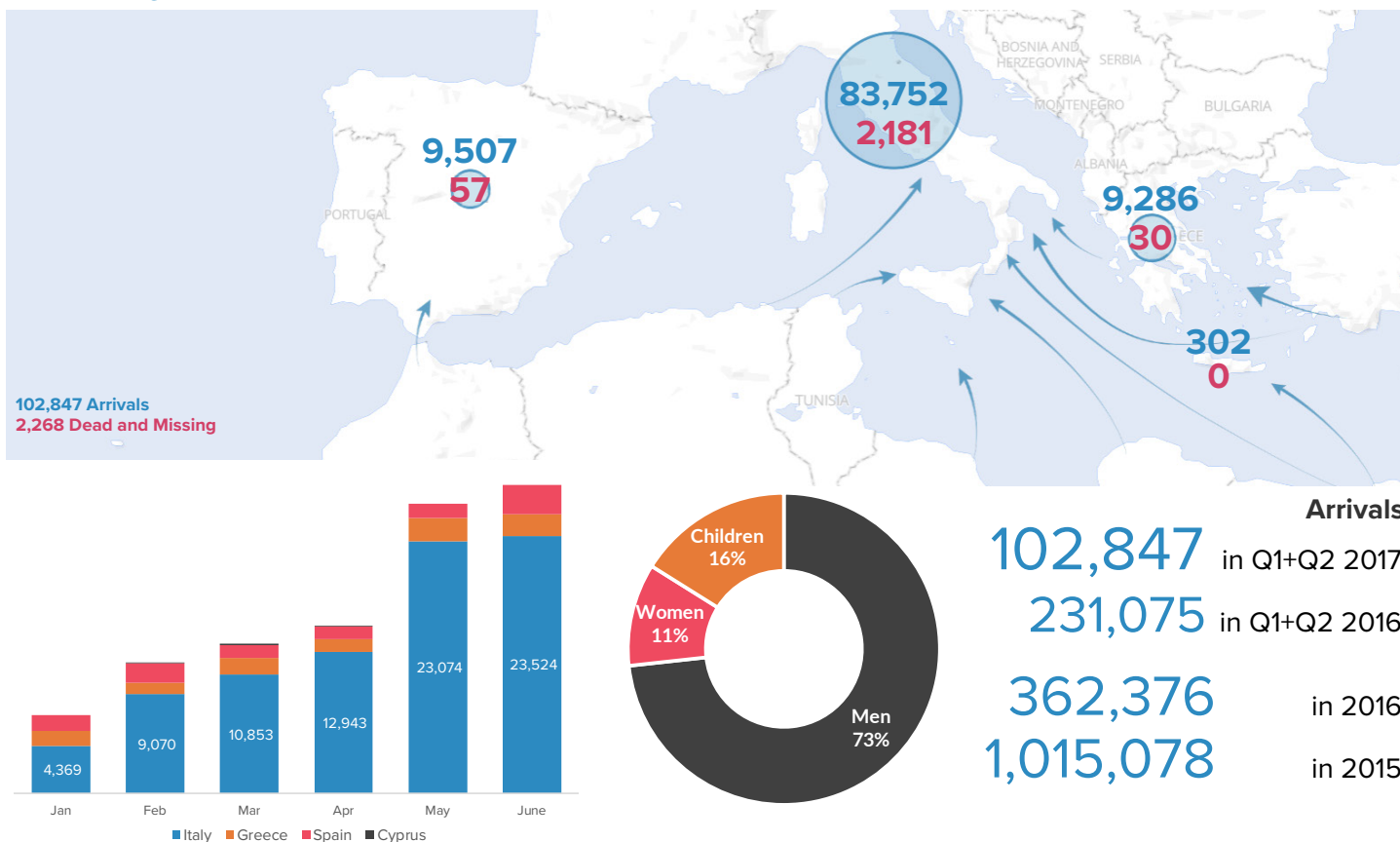
Funded  
21%  
**148 M**



**28**  
Partners with funding

**74**  
Number of partners

## January - June 2017 arrivals: 102,847



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on future joint actions to protect women and girls. The MoU establishes that a common framework is in place to support refugee women and girls at risk. Following this, the national and regional (Northern Greece) Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Working Groups of state and non-state actors developed Standard Operating Procedures on prevention and response to SGBV.

### Italy

UNHCR staff are present in disembarkation areas in several locations in southern Italy, delivering information on asylum and relocation to new arrivals and supporting the authorities with the identification of persons with specific needs. UNHCR staff also carried out missions to northern Italy's border areas, conducting capacity-building activities to assist the authorities in providing persons with information on the asylum and relocation procedures available in Italy. In regards to child protection initiatives, UNHCR conducted capacity-building activities for the staff of the first-line governmental reception facilities for UASC on the principle of the best interest of the child and on international protection. UNHCR also launched a pilot project in Sicily in collaboration with Defence for Children. The project supports the Regional Ombudsperson on the implementation of the law providing measures to protect unaccompanied children, with a particular focus on activities involving the identification and training of volunteer guardians.

In the context of the revision of the national extraordinary plan against violence by the Department of Equal Opportunities (Council of Ministers), UNHCR has contributed by promoting specific reference on equal access for refugees and asylum seekers to the national system. In cooperation with the National Commission for the Right of Asylum, UNHCR has developed a standardized coordination and referral mechanism between the asylum protection system and the anti-trafficking protection system in Italy by drafting and rolling out the "Guidelines for the identification and referral of potential victims of trafficking in the context of the asylum procedure".

Meanwhile, UNICEF mobile teams on Italian Coastguard rescue boats and in urban areas have identified a total of 4,065 children at risk (especially UASC) and referred them to reception facilities and services. In addition, 794 children received hygiene items and other basic supplies, mainly upon identification on rescue boats. UNICEF supported the Office of the Ombudsman of Palermo and local social services and a first group of 70 professionals were trained on guardianship and received accreditation to care and represent refugee and migrant UASC in Italy. UNHCR staff participated in the course jointly developed by UNICEF and the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria on child protection for frontline workers, which currently enrolls 266 participants with a lecture on best interests assessment for process planning and international protection.

### Serbia

In mid-May, with the support of UNHCR partners and other NGOs, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) relocated some 850 refugees and migrants including UASC from Belgrade city centre to government-run shelters. UNHCR provided support for the new Reception Centre (RC) in Vranje with additional staffing, medical services and Wi-Fi. The Centre has a capacity to host 250 people and has been renovated with funding from ECHO. UNHCR and partners maintained daily protection monitoring and counselling on asylum to some 8,550 individuals which led to case referrals to various service providers, including Child Protection for UASC. In support of education initiatives, UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education with the aim to enroll refugee and migrant children in formal education.

IOM mobile teams provided access to services such as transportation to health and social care services, referrals and interpretation assistance in all reception/transit centres. Some 2,030 refugees and migrants have been provided with transportation assistance of which 80 migrants have been assisted with Assisted Voluntary Returns. In addition, IOM trained 60 border police officers in protection sensitive border management.

In Presevo Municipality the water supply was upgraded by UNDP. The municipality contributed USD150,000 from its budget to implement a sustainable water supply for the entire municipality, including the refugee and migrant population. UNDP is implementing these upgrades throughout 2017.

Over a dozen events with participation of refugee, migrant and host communities were organized in Serbia to strengthen understanding and cohesion. UNDP, Divac Foundation and other NGOs focused work on increasing understanding and interactions between refugee and migrant populations and local communities. Additionally, UNICEF has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to enroll refugee and migrant children in formal education through trainings and mentoring programmes.

## The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

UNHCR maintained presence in the Transit Centres on both the southern (Vinojug) and northern border (Tabanovce), and conducted protection monitoring with partners throughout the country. UNHCR supports partners such as: the Macedonian Young Lawyers' Association (MYLA) providing legal aid, Open Gate – La Strada providing psychosocial support, City Red Cross mobile teams providing basic medical and humanitarian assistance for persons outside accommodation centres, Legis and Civic Development – Vaksince providing basic assistance for persons in northern villages.

Following its previous involvement with the production of SOPs on UASC and those with special needs, UNHCR, in partnership with UNFPA, has also supported the drafting of SOPs concerning 'Victims of SGBV in Humanitarian Settings'. This represents a significant step forward in the area of SGBV protection in the country, broadening the scope of protection for the first time to the victims of other forms of abuses, beyond domestic violence.

In the reporting period, IOM Skopje organized capacity building trainings for 96 border guards and continued providing comprehensive assistance to migrants.

IOM Skopje has provided regular basic emergency needs (food and clothes), medical, psychological and legal assistance, health and nutrition support to a total of 52 cases. These cases included unaccompanied and separated migrant children, single parents, youth at risk, pregnant women, families with young children with serious medical conditions, and elderly. The assistance is provided in the Transit Reception Centres "Vinojug" Gevgelija and "Tabanovce" Kumanovo, Reception Centre for Asylum-Seekers and Safe House for vulnerable categories. The majority of the assisted migrants are nationals of Syria, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, and Morocco.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNDP developed solutions for proper waste management in both migrant-affected municipalities (new landfill and waste selection capacity improvement). Construction of a new USD 1 M landfill for Gevgelija is expected to start by September 2017.

## Turkey

RMRP partners continued to support frontline institutions such as the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) and the Gendarmerie through capacity building, interpreters and equipment. The aim is improve referrals of vulnerable people to Government institutions for registration, health care and social support.

During the reporting period, UNHCR contributed: four WASH containers provided to Kaş Gendarmerie; 6,433 packages of

core relief items and 1,979 food packages provided at various disembarkation and apprehension locations or to the TCG, Police, Gendarmerie or Provincial Directorates of Migration Management; and two emergency shelters to Kaş Gendarmerie.

From April until June 2017, IOM Turkey provided food, non-food items (NFI) and psychosocial support for 2,601 refugees and migrants rescued at sea. Among them, 98 refugees and migrants had specific needs and were referred for medical services, family reunification and legal counselling.

IOM has also provided capacity building to 566 TCG staff on different subjects including mixed migration and protection of vulnerable migrants, counter-migrant smuggling and human trafficking training and effective communication. In addition, IOM provided the TCG with two sophisticated search and rescue vessels that will enhance their abilities to conduct search and rescue operations.

## Austria

UNHCR monitored several reception facilities in six provinces with a focus on single women and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A summary report with recommendations was shared with relevant stakeholders and led to improvements such as the planned establishment of more specialized reception facilities for single women and systematic information provision on available counselling centres for women as well as enhanced cooperation between the actors involved.

UNHCR developed a guide on the Austrian school and education system which aims at providing comprehensive and easy-to-understand information to parents of young asylum-seeking or refugee children in [German/Arabic](#) and [German/Dari](#). The guide was developed together with refugees and for young refugees and includes information on counselling centres and education contact points in all provinces. The guide is available [online](#) and can be ordered free of charge.

## Germany

UNHCR has contributed to a set of teaching materials created by the Federal Office for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/BPB) comprised of a working brochure for elementary school students and accompanying material for teachers. The brochure for students gives practical information about children who are newly arrived in Germany and working side by side with people from other cultures. The materials for teachers give information on global displacement and as to what claiming asylum in Germany entails. Both brochures aim at mixed classes in which German children study alongside refugee children. The package is being printed and will be released country-wide in an initial circulation of 20,000 hard copies. UNICEF and the German Ministry of Family published the revised Minimum Standards for the Protection of Persons Living in Refugee Centres in Germany, now including two new annexes to guide the implementation of the Standards for LGBTIQ persons and persons with disabilities. To support their implementation, UNICEF also developed a comprehensive Training Package and Toolbox, which already benefitted 650 managers, protection coordinators and frontline workers from 25 refugee centres across the country.

## Ireland

UNHCR, in cooperation with IOM and the Irish Red Cross, continues to assist refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection with family reunification. As of May, 37 individuals have been reunited with their families in Ireland in 2017.