

REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN FOR EUROPE

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND
WESTERN BALKANS ROUTE

January to December 2016 (Revision May 2016)

Cover image:

Two young girls walk through a makeshift camp near the village of Idomeni, Greece. © UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

REGIONAL PLAN HEADLINES

Period	January to December 2016
Overview of arrivals ¹	856,723 from Turkey to Greece in 2015 156,782 from Turkey to Greece in 2016
Population planning figures	Up to 248,000 people²
Target beneficiaries	Refugees and migrants on the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans route
Financial requirements	USD 669,867,115
Number of partners	60

¹ All data as of 5 June 2016; data accessible at: <http://data.unhcr.org> and <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=502>

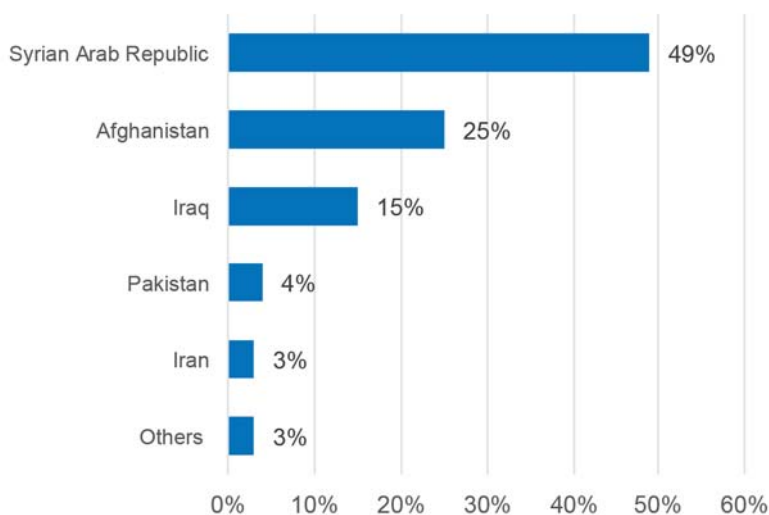
² This figure takes into consideration the 156,000 people who have arrived from Turkey in Greece in 2016, including those who have moved onwards during the first quarter of the year. It also factors in the number of foreseen populations movements from and to Greece until the end of the year.

Regional Response Dashboard³

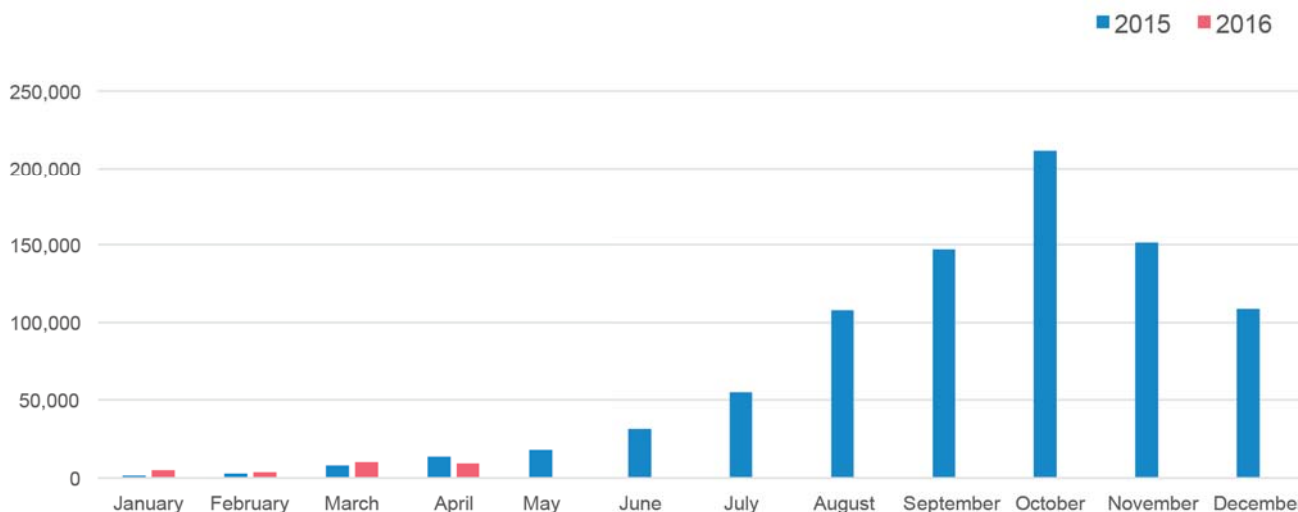
Demographics



Top 5 Nationalities of Sea arrivals

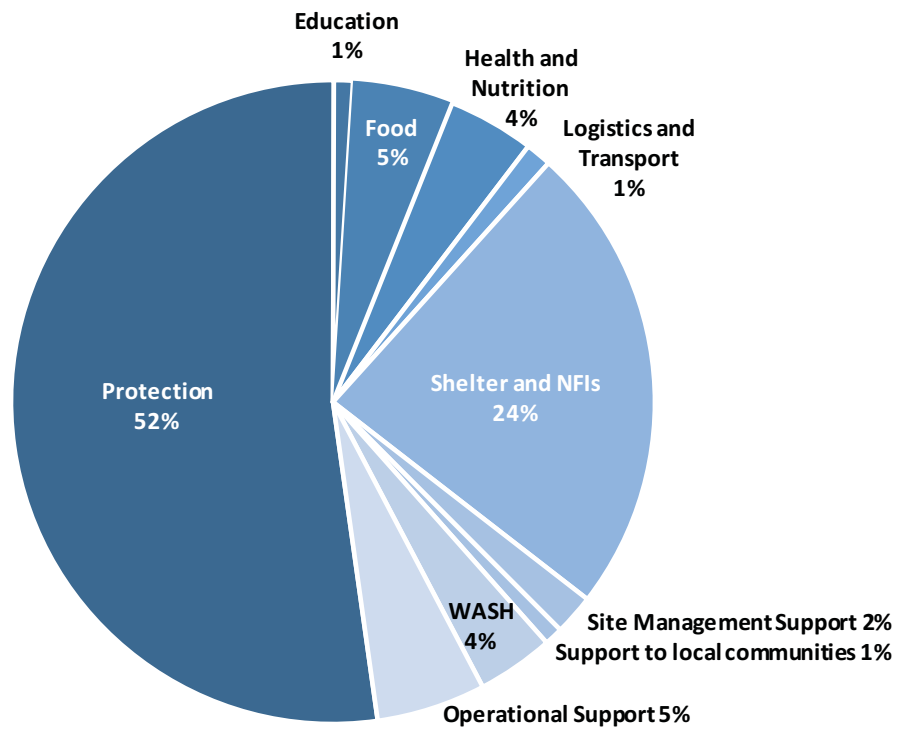


Comparison of monthly Mediterranean Sea arrivals

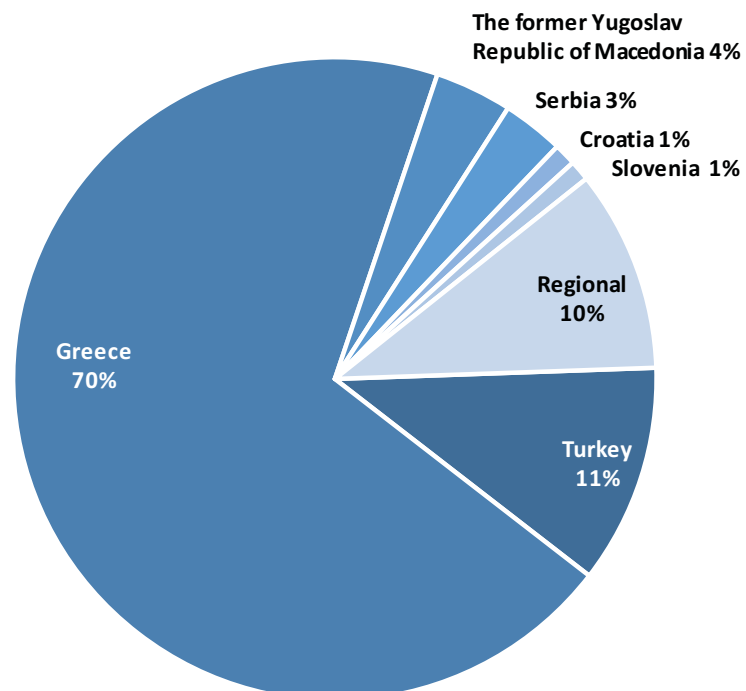


³ Figures are based on data of sea arrivals to Greece. Data as of 15 May 2016; available at: data.unhcr.org

Requirements by Sector



Requirements by Country





Regional Strategic Overview

Background and Context

The regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), involving 60 partners, was launched in January 2016 following the large-scale population movements registered throughout Europe in 2015, when one million refugees and migrants undertook the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. The vast majority crossed the Aegean Sea by boat from Turkey to Greece. Many lost their lives: in total, 3,771 people died or were reported missing in the Mediterranean Sea in 2015.

Despite worsening weather conditions brought on by the onset of winter, the movements did not subside during the first quarter of 2016, with some 171,132 arrivals by sea from January to March 2016, including 151,452 to Greece in the same period. To date, 156,782 people have arrived in Greece, and 2,814 have been reported dead or missing in 2016.⁴ The vast majority of these people are in search of safety and protection; 90 per cent of those arriving to Greece come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries, primarily from the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), Afghanistan and Iraq.

Throughout this crisis, refugees and migrants arriving in Europe have not intended to stay in Greece, the first country of arrival for long, but instead aim to contin-

ue their journey onwards. The Western Balkans route became an important transit axis, with thousands of people travelling through Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia before reaching their final destination in Europe. The transient nature of the population movement required humanitarian partners to develop a flexible and pragmatic response to ensure the most effective and protection-centred approach. From a light operational footprint, humanitarian partners managed to quickly deploy staff and resources to ensure a 24/7 presence at border crossing points. In Greece, the initial response focused on the islands in the Aegean Sea, where, in early 2016, up to 2,000 people in need of immediate assistance and protection arrived on a daily basis. Along the Western Balkans route, efforts were devoted to ensuring access to adequate and safe accommodation, as well as protection-centred assistance.

Circumstances started to change drastically as of mid-February 2016 with the progressive establishment of border restrictions between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, followed by further restrictions along the Western Balkans route, leading to an effective closure of the route on 8 March 2016 for non-EU citizens without requisite documentation. On 18 March, the EU and Turkey agreed on measures to halt the movement of refugees and migrants traveling from Turkey to the EU (henceforth the EU-Turkey agreement). In essence, the agreement aims to

⁴ This figure refers to all deaths in the Mediterranean Sea, as reported by various coast guard authorities; data as of 5 June 2016.



A young boy from Syria seen near the Idomeni border crossing on the Greek-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border. © UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

address the flow of refugees and migrants crossing the Aegean from Turkey to the Greek islands irregularly after 20 March 2016.

These developments have had a significant impact on the numbers of refugees and migrants arriving, with a decrease in the number of people along the Western Balkans route and an increase in the number of people remaining in Greece, in particular on the mainland. While the measures adopted in March have significantly reduced the number of daily arrivals (from an average of 2,200 arrivals in mid-February 2016 to an average of 120 in late April 2016) in Greece, nearly 54,000 refugees and migrants are currently dispersed across Greece in sites on the mainland and the islands.

Unmet needs remain significant, as living conditions in the sites in Greece, both on the islands and the mainland, have deteriorated as a result of congestion and the rapid nature in which sites were established on the mainland. The affected population include many people with specific needs, such as unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), single women, pregnant or lactating women, the elderly, people with disabilities, as well as the sick and injured. The number of children in these movements has been on the rise, reaching 38 per cent of the total arrivals from Turkey to Greece in 2016.

In this context, humanitarian partners have redefined their engagement from a response primarily targeting people on the move to focusing on a static population in Greece and on protection activities in countries in the Western Balkans, recognizing, however, that a limited number of people will continue to move onward, but in a clandestine manner. There is a risk that these people will increasingly rely on smuggling and trafficking networks, exposing themselves to greater protection risks, which will be even more challenging to address considering the clandestine nature of the movement.

The present revised RMRP outlines this shift in priorities, as well as operational and financial readjustments. It presents a framework that will enable the humanitarian community to adequately respond to the protection needs of refugees and migrants. The main strategic goals as outlined in the RMRP in January 2016 are maintained in this revision of the document. Emphasis is placed on: ensuring consistent border and protection monitoring, especially in light of the increase in clandestine movements; strengthening existing national protection and response mechanisms; and promoting access to fair and efficient status determination procedures, relevant services and assistance.

2016 Scenarios and Assumptions

Following the change in circumstances, scenarios and planning figures have been modified accordingly. Assumptions outlined below take the relevant legal frameworks and political developments as of end of May 2016 into account.

Greece

As of 25 May 2016, over 54,000 people are in Greece (46,000 on the mainland and 8,400 on the Greek islands). The average number of daily arrivals has decreased significantly, ranging from 120 to 374 persons during the month of April. Based on the average daily rate of arrivals, it is expected that up to 92,000 may have arrived in Greece by the end of the year, resulting in an estimated population of up to 100,000 people in need of protection and assistance. This number factors in readmissions to Turkey, family reunification under the Common European Asylum System (Dublin II regulations), relocation, assisted voluntary returns, asylum claims and potential irregular movements.

Based on the current demographics of arrivals, it is expected that the population in Greece will be primarily composed of children and women (38 per cent and 22 per cent respectively), including 49 per cent Syrians, 25 per cent Afghans, 15 per cent Iraqis and 10 per cent other nationalities.⁵

With the limited possibility for onward movement, an estimated 10 per cent of the population, composed of primarily other nationalities as mentioned above, are expected to express the wish to return voluntarily, with the assistance of IOM. It is further expected that irregular departures from Greece will continue, despite the official closure of borders along the Western Balkans route (please see 'Fragmentation of Routes' section below for more information).

Given the rapidly evolving context, numerous external factors may impact the current rate of arrivals, as well as the procedures and mechanisms in place. As per trends seen in 2015 and early 2016, it is more likely that people are transferred to facilities on the mainland in the event that the rate of arrivals increase, rather than remaining on the islands.

Turkey

In 2016, as in 2015, Turkey remains the main point of departure for refugees and migrants seeking entry into Europe. Measures outlined in the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan (further explained in the Turkey country chapter) relating to the improvement of asylum and migration management in Turkey culminated in the EU-Turkey agreement of 18 March and the development of measures to stop the arrival of refugees and migrants traveling from Turkey to the EU.

As a result, the current refugee and migrant population in Turkey can be broadly divided into four different groups:

1. Registered Syrian refugees in Turkey⁶ ;
2. Refugees and migrants of other nationalities in Turkey;
3. New refugee and migrant arrivals in Turkey attempting to enter Europe;
4. Refugees and migrants who have been returned/readmitted from Greece.

In order to ensure complementarity with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), targeted beneficiaries in Turkey under the present RMRP only include: people being apprehended, rescued or intercepted while attempting to cross into Europe; people on the move transiting Turkey in an attempt to reach the EU; people readmitted to Turkey from Greece; and Syrian refugees identified for resettlement of Syrian refugees in Turkey. While outreach efforts will be undertaken to communicate the dangers of irregular movement, in particular smuggling and trafficking, to all refugees and migrants in Turkey, such efforts will specifically target common departure points along the Western coast, satellite cities, as well as other urban areas fur-

5 See <http://data.unhcr.org/> for more information

6 The 2.749 million Syrian refugees registered in Turkey fall under the auspices of the 3RP plan and are therefore not considered in the RMRP.

ther inland⁷. In total, up to 200,000 people of concern will be targeted in Turkey by the present response plan.

Western Balkans

Despite the formal closure of the Western Balkans route since 8 March 2016, irregular movements into and out of the Western Balkans continue. Border monitoring indicates that smuggling networks have adapted to new circumstances and are adjusting routes accordingly. Continued irregular movement has been noted to this effect; since April 2016, 100-200 daily arrivals have continuously been reported in Hungary and Austria. This further suggests that only a fraction of people moving through the Western Balkans remain in these countries. It is therefore expected that until the end of the year, 1,200 people would remain in need of assistance in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Serbia and Croatia, a maximum of 2,000 people may remain in each country, while it is expected that not more than 1,100 people will remain in Slovenia.

Italy

Sea arrivals continue to be reported in Italy in 2016. As of 25 May 2016, 37,785 sea arrivals have been recorded in Italy since the beginning of the year. To date, sea arrivals in Italy predominantly originate from West, East and North Africa, with 15 per cent of arrivals originating from Nigeria, 10 per cent from Gambia, 9 per cent from Somalia, 8 per cent from Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea and Guinea respectively. While the current scale and nature of arrivals in Italy does not differ greatly from 2015, arrivals will continue to be monitored closely.

Fragmentation of routes

The change in circumstances following the closure of the Western Balkans route and the EU-Turkey agreement in March, as well as the absence of viable and easily accessible solutions for those remaining on the Greek mainland are leading to a fragmentation of routes, albeit on a relatively small scale.

Sharing a land border with both Turkey and Greece, Bulgaria has thus far been a less preferred alternative route for refugees and migrants. This is partly due to the Rhodope mountain range, which forms a natural barrier along the Bulgaria-Greece border, and partly due to the land border controls between Bulgaria and Turkey. Bulgarian authorities have thus far reportedly apprehended up to 2,800 individuals in 2016 for irregularly transiting Bulgarian territory.⁸

Increased arrivals have been noted in Hungary, primarily via Serbia. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 12,602 regular entries and apprehensions have been recorded.⁹ Between 4 March and 21 April 2016, 6,418 people were apprehended for irregular entry into Hungary; 2,937 people had approached the transit zone; and 2,560 people had sought asylum at the transit zones in Röszke and Tompa. The number of people entering through these transit zones has been limited to 30 per day, causing several hundred people to accumulate on the Serbian side of the border each day.

It is possible that isolated direct movements from Turkey and Greece to Italy across the Mediterranean Sea may occur. Recent trends indicate the high adaptability of smuggling and trafficking networks. It is therefore expected that routes will diversify and adapt to existing barriers to movement. New restrictions will likely result in refugees and migrants resorting to dangerous smuggling and trafficking networks, which will expose them to serious protection incidents and limit the opportunities humanitarian actors will have to interact with the population on the move and address their needs.

⁷ Known departure points include: Assos, Bademli, Behramkale and Dikili for Lesbos; around Çeşme for Chios; Didim for Farmakonisi; Agathonisi and Bodrum for Kos; as well as Izmir and Istanbul as general departure points.

⁸ Data as of 19 April 2016

⁹ Data as of 22 May 2016. The number of people approaching the transit zones and seeking asylum at the transit zones are based on UNHCR estimates.

2016 Response Strategy

The inter-agency response strategy to the crisis in Europe has been revised to take into account the new circumstances following the border closure along the Western Balkans route, and the entry into force of the EU-Turkey agreement. From a response solely targeting people on the move, the overall strategy is now focusing on a largely static population, with the majority residing in urban areas, while at the same time recognizing that people still continue to move in a clandestine manner through Europe, exposing them to significant protection risks.

The regional RMRP remains the framework for an inter-agency response to the refugee and migrant flows into Europe through the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans route. It is both a strategy and an appeal document that covers the needs of an adjusted and integrated response in Europe for 2016. It represents a coherent and predictable package of interventions based on standardized approaches and comparative advantages of involved partners. The financial requirements have been adjusted to reflect the change in circumstances, yet they still cover the whole of 2016. While a significant amount of voluntary contributions have been received (USD 328.8 million¹⁰), the present document presents the comprehensive requirements to implement inter-agency planned activities in 2016.

Alongside cooperation with governments, the RMRP is implemented in close cooperation with the European Commission and relevant EU Agencies, including the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (FRONTEX) and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

Recognizing the primary leadership and responsibility of host governments, the strategic goals are:

1. To design and implement a response that supports, complements and builds existing government capacity in transit and destination countries to ensure effective and safe access to asylum, protection and solutions, as well as manage migration in an orderly and dignified manner, while protecting the human rights of all refugees and migrants.
2. To ensure that refugee and migrant women, girls, boys and men have access to protection, basic services and assistance in a participatory manner, with particular attention to specific needs and vulnerabilities. Protection-centred assistance should be delivered in a manner that respects the principle of non-discrimination; age, gender and diversity; is appropriate to the specific characteristics of the situation; and takes into account the needs of the local communities.
3. To strengthen national and local capacities and protection systems, and ensure safe access to longer-term solutions for refugees and migrants, in particular through reinforced alternative legal pathways to protection, such as relocation, family reunification and resettlement.
4. To strengthen partnership and coordination within the humanitarian community and with governments, both in setting common goals and in reinforcing or establishing (when needed) national-level coordination structures and information analysis, that ensure an efficient and coordinated response, including coordinated channels for citizen engagement to support the reception and integration of refugees and migrants.

The response strategy recognizes that a coordinated and comprehensive response is required. It also recognizes that while legal and physical restrictions have been put in place at borders along the former route, the motivation of refugees and migrants to reach further into Europe will not abate. There are therefore considerable risks that people remaining in countries along the previous route may approach smuggling networks to facilitate their onward travel, further exposing them to human rights violations and exploitation.

Overall, a nuanced and flexible approach is still needed to ensure that access to protection, basic services and assistance, as well as legal alternatives and assisted voluntary return are made available to people, in accordance with legal status.

In light of these challenges, the strategy aims to protect and assist refugees and migrants, while at the same time support governments in further developing and operationalizing a sustainable, comprehensive and cooperative framework for concrete action in the areas of refugee protection and migration management, consistent with international and European standards.

As the operational context has been rapidly and continuously changing, partners recognize the need for the plan to remain flexible and aligned with operational realities. In this context, further revisions will be carried out as deemed necessary; in particular should large movements be noted in other parts of Europe, such as along the Central Mediterranean route.

The majority of the refugee populations now entering Greece are from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Up-to-date information on the number and demographics of arrivals and other information relating to the refugee situation in Europe are available at <http://data.unhcr.org> and <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>.

There are existing response plans covering the needs of refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities in many of these countries of origin – notably the Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan, available at <http://www.unocha.org/syria>; the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) covering refugee and host community needs in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, available at <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>; the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f9016576.html>; and the IOM Response Plan for the Mediterranean and Beyond, available at <http://www.iom.int/IOM-Response-Plan-for-the-Mediterranean-and-Beyond-Oct2015.pdf>.

The RMRP is designed to complement these existing plans, seeking synergies while avoiding overlaps. For instance, while there are Turkey chapters in both the 3RP and the RMRP, the 3RP covers protection and assistance for Syrian refugees in Turkey only, while activities outlined in the RMRP will cover four main target groups, including people intercepted, rescued and apprehended; people on the move transiting Turkey; people readmitted to Turkey from Greece; and Syrian refugees to be resettled to the EU.

Where relevant, the RMRP has also been developed to facilitate implementation of the medium to long-term durable solutions under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), including integration and advancing refugee and migrant-related development agenda.

Protection Strategy

With the changed circumstances, a fully-fledged multi-sectoral response will mainly be relevant for Greece, for which a detailed strategy and activities are presented in the corresponding country chapter.

As this situation remains primarily driven by protection-related concerns, humanitarian imperatives and protection and protection principles¹¹ are at the centre of the response and will be applied in all sectors of intervention. In this context, partners will continue to ensure a coherent and predictable protection response, recognizing the primary responsibility of governments to protect refugees and migrants. This will continue to be carried out in support of local and regional authorities and with the participation of the refugees and migrants concerned, while at the same time strengthening national asylum and migration systems.

As such, the RMRP works towards an overall protection vision whereby countries and institutions in Europe (EU and non-EU) demonstrate responsibility, solidarity, and predictability through strong and effective common asylum systems that are accessible to people in need of international protection and through a functioning set of migration policies and systems that ensure the protection of the human rights of all refugees and migrants, irrespective of their status.

The main elements of the protection response include:

- **Protection monitoring and advocacy:** Through permanent presence in key strategic points, partners will be on hand to monitor general access to territory and asylum procedures and the human rights of refugees and migrants. UN engagement – including through fora such as the UN Country Team – will be proactive. Protection monitoring will continue to be carried out at detention centres, reception centers and other locations, with a view to ensuring compliance with all aspects of international refugee and human rights law. This will also include child rights monitoring. Partners will undertake advocacy on the basis of such monitoring and act on human rights concerns that arise. Qualitative and quantitative gender- and age-disaggregated data, as well as other risk criteria, will be regularly collected, analysed and reported on and used to inform planning and operations. While solidarity has been equally impressive in countries of arrival, transit and destination, continued arrivals have put strain on affected communities and their willingness to accept refugees and migrants. Efforts will be expanded to promote a more positive image of refugees and migrants and their potential contribution to the societies in which they settle.
- **Strengthening national asylum systems:** UNHCR, together with the relevant EU institutions, UN and other partners, will capitalize on the efforts displayed so far to assist affected countries to strengthen and maintain national asylum systems in line with international standards, including procedural standards and child protection standards.

¹¹ Including international law, in particular the nine core international human rights treaties and the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees, together with the 1967 Protocol, as well as established best practices relating to protection delivery. International humanitarian standards will be pursued to uphold the safety, dignity and rights of refugee and migrants, including the SPHERE Standards, and standards and guidelines outlined in the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action (2006) and the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action (2015).

- **People with specific needs:** People at risk or with specific needs, in particular sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), people with disabilities and victims of trafficking, will continue to be prioritized to ensure their safe and predictable access to adequate services. Identification mechanisms and referral pathways will be established where required. Assistance will be tailored to meet these needs. Personnel in contact with refugees and migrants will be trained to identify signs of abuse, violence and exploitation and be in possession of the required skills and interviewing techniques particularly for children and individuals who have gone through abusive experience.
- **Child protection and assistance:** Children, including those traveling without family members or care-givers, will have access to protection and assistance that safeguards their best interests. Efforts will be pursued to respond to the various needs of children, to ensure the protection of their rights and to assist with family tracing. The standardized approach through the Child and Family Support Hubs (the 'Blue Dots') will continue to be introduced at strategic locations where refugees and migrants are accommodated, making a set of interventions and services available to children and their families. Child-sensitive and child-rights focused training and tools will be provided to relevant personnel (police, coast guards and border agents, social workers, volunteers) and contextualized technical support organized adequately. Additional support will be provided for longer-term institutional capacity of governments to meet agreed international and European standards.
- **Family reunification and prevention of family separation:** Measures are in place to minimize the risks of family separation, ensure the prompt reunification of families who have been separated, and engage in the appropriate tracing activities when separation has occurred in the country of origin. These activities will be promoted and implemented through the Child and Family Support Hubs. Where appropriate, more mobile options may be considered.
- **Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence:** Measures, stand alone as well as integrated into all sectors, are in place to reduce exposure of women, men, boys and girls to the risk of SGBV, including in relation to reception facilities and provision of services, as well as improving access to response mechanisms.
- **Registration:** In close collaboration with EU agencies and institutions, technical support and equipment are provided to affected countries in establishing a harmonized registration system with sufficient capacity, which meets EU standards.
- **Accountability and participation:** Analysis of the situation, as well as decisions on assistance (including type and modality) and protection responses are informed by the views of refugees, migrants and host/affected communities (using participatory methodologies and feedback mechanisms, as well as complaint mechanisms), and will increase accountability. Programme design and implementation is based on a participatory approach, integrating the views of all groups of people of concern in an age, gender and diversity sensitive manner, with an emphasis on fostering gender equality.

- **Communication with communities:** Refugees and migrants are systematically informed in an age, gender and diversity sensitive manner and through a participatory dialogue on their rights and obligations. These include the right to seek asylum and the steps necessary to do so; information on referrals and complaints mechanisms; the risks and possible consequences associated with secondary movements (including by sea); as well as the options available in situ according to their specific situation. Updated information is systematically provided to, and gathered from, all people of concern regarding known protection risks. The provision of information and assistance takes into account various population groups (age, gender and diversity) and their differing barriers to accessibility. Social media is utilized to disseminate information on the dangers posed by traffickers and irregular movement. Feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure the voices of persons of concern are taken into account in designing the response.
- **Capacity strengthening:** The capacity of coast guards, border authorities, police, social workers and front-line responders along with other relevant State institutions will continue to be strengthened through training and equipment, in order to understand and operate in line with their national and international obligations. Authorities will be strengthened in their ability to understand and to act on all aspects of their refugee protection and human rights obligations, as well as to undertake law, policy and practice reforms as needed.
- **Relocation procedures:** In close collaboration with relevant authorities, the European Commission, EASO and experts from the EU Member States, partners will continue to support fairness, quality and efficiency in the relocation procedure through a variety of interventions, including by providing information, referrals, reception, operational support, interpretation, identification, risk assessment and reinforcing best-interest determination (BID) processes for children and follow up of relocation in destination countries.
- **Resettlement and alternative legal pathways to protection:** Support provided to actors at national and regional levels to establish and/or expand resettlement or admission programmes for refugees with increased annual resettlement quotas, including more flexible criteria. The increased quotas should not be at the expense of the resettlement of other populations in the region and around the globe. Furthermore, UNHCR and partners remain committed to a streamlined and expedited resettlement process where the receiving government assumes a greater role in refugee screening. Such a streamlined and expedited process is a critical avenue to increased resettlement opportunities for refugees.



- **Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR):** AVRR will remain an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to migration management aiming at orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. General return assistance for irregular migrants, rejected asylum-seekers, refugees who are unable or unwilling to remain in the host or transit countries are offered the possibility to return home voluntarily, in a safe and dignified manner and, whenever feasible, with reintegration support to promote self-sufficiency once back in the countries of origin. Partnerships will be established for the identification, counselling and referral to IOM of migrants requesting AVRR assistance.
- **Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse:** In all areas where humanitarian activities are undertaken, effective and responsive prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse complaints mechanisms will be put in place.
- **Strengthening the Celebration of Diversity, and the Value of Migration and Migrants, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** UNCTs and UN more broadly will proactively engage to support efforts to ensure the human rights of everyone, as set out under international human rights law; as well as to foster responses which reap the benefits of migration, and which approach the opportunity of migration with creativity, compassion and courage as per the SDGs, and as called for by the UN Secretary General.



Ahmad, 95, is among the thousands of Afghans in Greece facing an uncertain future.
© UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

Partnership and Coordination

This revised regional RMRP is the result of field-driven planning, bringing together 60 appealing organizations, in consultation with host governments, civil society, local communities, donors, as well as the refugees and migrants themselves.

Significant resources are already being deployed to address the situation by the governments of the receiving countries and by the European Union mechanisms. This response plan is intended to complement the interventions of national and local government authorities, supporting them to fulfil their responsibilities by investing in areas where specific expertise is required, or where the governments' own humanitarian assistance capacity is overstretched. It is based on close cooperation with the European Commission and relevant EU Agencies.

This response plan includes programmes and activities that may be reflected in appeals issued by individual agencies. These activities are included – even when funded – in order to present a comprehensive picture of protection and assistance needs.

The 60 partners who are appealing in this plan are also part of a much broader engagement by implementing partners, civil society organizations and individuals. Noteworthy are the significant volunteer efforts underway, both from international volunteers traveling to the region to offer their support, and from national civil society groups and individuals. Such efforts have been a crucial part of the first-line response. Volunteerism further contributes to awareness-raising and promotes activities aimed at defusing potential social tension.

It is important that coordination mechanisms combine the respective mandated responsibilities, expertise and potential of local government, UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, civil society members and volunteer groups to ensure robust protection, as well as efficient and predictable delivery of services and assistance to those in need. It also needs to ensure that humanitarian principles, refugee conventions and laws, human rights of migrants and the “do-no-harm” principle are upheld by all actors, including volunteers.

Refugees are people who have fled conflict and wide-

spread violence, suffered persecution and crossed borders, and consequently require international protection. As they are not citizens of the country of asylum, refugees have specific protection and legal needs. UNHCR is accountable for ensuring the international protection of refugees and for seeking durable solutions. The Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) presents the framework for coordinating, in a partner-friendly and inclusive manner, protection, assistance and solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, and is applicable in the prevailing European situation. It is predicated on the primary responsibility of States to protect refugees and is largely determined by the capacities and approaches of the host government. Responses are, whenever possible, led by the host government and build on the resources of refugees and the communities in which they live. In the framework of the RCM, UNHCR has put in place coordination structures at national level and points of delivery. These coordination arrangements remain agile and responsive as the situation evolves. They aim at including all relevant actors and are set up to support authorities' overall leading role.

Given that the situation in Europe includes both refugees and migrants, the Refugee Response Plan, used under the RCM, was expanded to include migrants in January 2016. This RMRP upholds protection requirements in terms of assistance and legal matters of refugees and migrants and thereby the distinct responsibilities of both IOM and UNHCR. This approach acknowledges that all people on the move have human rights which should be respected, protected, and fulfilled; and that refugees and asylum-seekers have specific needs and rights which are protected by a particular legal framework.

Regional leadership for UNHCR is provided by the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Europe Situation, who also leads the coordination of the RMRP. Coordination at regional level between partners is convened by UNHCR and IOM, and managed through regular inter-agency meetings to review progress on the implementation of the RMRP, address obstacles, and ensure that standards are being met. Regular updates to key stakeholders and donors are done both jointly as

well as individually by IOM and UNHCR. Linked, to this, UNICEF has made regular contributions to the contextual analysis given the the progressive increase in the proportion of children among these populations since late 2015.

At the national level, the response plan and implementation is taking place through inter-agency coordination meetings specific to the country context through a multi-sectoral approach. The sectors are coordinated by agencies with the required expertise and capacity. The configuration of inter-agency coordination fora have been developed according to situational context, and operational capacities of governments and agencies, taking into account existing coordination structures such as UN Country Teams.

Details on country specific coordination arrangements, 3Ws, analysis on movements and other protection related issues is available on the refuge and migrants emergency response web portal (<http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php> and <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>). Protection working groups have been established at the national and sub-national levels. The groups ensure that the protection and assistance needs of refugees and migrants are identified, planned for and met. Information management services are provided as part of the RMRP. The aim is to ensure that comprehensive, quality disaggregated data (qualitative and quantitative) and analysis on the situation of refugees and migrants is accessible for affected countries across Europe in order to inform evidence-based policy advocacy and programme interventions by relevant partners.

By participating in this plan, organizations commit to engaging in regional and national coordination mechanisms, adhering to agreed standards, and reporting on their achievements and on funds received through the RMRP framework. Monitoring and reporting procedures will be agreed in consultation between the regional and country levels.



A little girl from Iraq arriving in Lagkadikia, Greece.
© UNHCR/Yorgos Kyvernitis

Budgetary Requirements

Organization	Financial Requirements (USD)
Action Aid	USD 987,777
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	USD 1,305,380
Agape	USD 178,000
Apostoli IOCC NCA	USD 6,994,752
Arbeiter Samariter Bund Deutschland e.V./PREDA Plus	USD 336,163
Association for the Social Support of Youth	USD 3,042,618
CARE International	USD 2,754,500
Caritas Hellas	USD 2,614,436
Caritas Athens	USD 4,496,703
Croatian Red Cross Society	USD 1,406,500
Catholic Relief Services	USD 467,000
Centre for Research on Women's Issues	USD 198,606
Disaster Tech Lab	USD 100,000
Dorcas	USD 222,000
Danish Refugee Council	USD 12,757,731
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	USD 848,632
Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance	USD 164,333
Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V.	USD 270,000
Humanitarian Support Agency	USD 607,760
Human Appeal	USD 535,000
International Catholic Migration Commission	USD 250,000
International Medical Corps	USD 6,490,298
INTERSOS	USD 80,000
International Organization for Migration	USD 112,217,859
International Rescue Committee	USD 15,250,000
IsraAid	USD 480,456
Jesuit Refugee Services	USD 166,589
Ecumenical Refugee Programme of the Church of Greece	USD 159,000
La Strada	USD 701,586
Legis	USD 606,389
Libraries without Borders	USD 518,000
Macedonian Center for International Cooperation	USD 104,637
Macedonian Red Cross Society	USD 2,749,000
Macedonian Young Lawyer's Association	USD 583,849
Medecins du Monde	USD 7,000,330
Mercy Corps	USD 7,031,287
Network for Children's Rights	USD 2,091,600
'Nostos' Organisation for Social Integration	USD 1,313,160

Norwegian Refugee Council	USD 2,530,000
Nun Kultura	USD 260,000
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	USD 320,462
Operation Mercy	USD 84,660
Oxfam	USD 5,201,521
Legal Information Centre for Non-Governmental Organizations	USD 35,500
Salvation Army	USD 243,625
Samaritan's Purse	USD 16,356,086
Save the Children	USD 7,007,259
Slovenian Development and Humanitarian NGO Platform	USD 139,000
Solidarites International	USD 1,425,550
Solidarity Now	USD 4,390,000
Slovenian Red Cross	USD 175,000
Translators without Borders	USD 1,000,000
UN Women	USD 580,320
United Nations Development Programme	USD 5,800,000
United Nations Population Fund	USD 10,984,148
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	USD 380,316,824
United Nations Children's Fund	USD 31,375,228
United Nations Volunteers	USD 660,000
Women and Health Alliance International in partnership with Zavod Krog	USD 210,000
World Health Organization	USD 2,690,000
Total	USD 669,867,115

Financial requirements by sector (in US dollars)

Sector	Total
Protection	350,110,579
Education	6,365,005
Food	33,846,530
Health and Nutrition	29,042,637
Logistics, Telecommunication and Transport	8,709,172
Shelter and NFIs	159,513,477
Site Management Support	13,561,719
Support to local communities	6,204,000
WASH	25,794,441
Operational Support	36,719,556
Total	USD 669,867,115

Financial Requirements by Agency and Country (US Dollars)

Organization	Turkey	Greece	fYR Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Regional	Slovenia	Total
Action Aid		987,777						987,777
ADRA Adventist Development and Relief Agency			306,782	575,000	98,250	250,000	75,348	1,305,380
Agape			178,000					178,000
Apostoli IOCC with Norwegian Church Aid		6,994,752						6,994,752
Arbeiter Samariter Bund Deutschland e.V./PREDA Plus			336,163					336,163
ARSIS Association for the Social Support of Youth		3,042,618						3,042,618
CARE International		2,754,500						2,754,500
Caritas Athens		4,496,703						4,496,703
Caritas Hellas		2,614,436						2,614,436
CRC Croatian Red Cross					1,406,500			1,406,500
CRS Catholic Relief Services			467,000					467,000
DIOTIMA Centre of research on Women's Issues		198,606						198,606
Disaster Tech Lab		100,000						100,000
Dorcas			222,000					222,000
DRC Danish Refugee Council		11,917,531	197,800	642,400				12,757,731
GIZ Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit			848,632					848,632
HCIT Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance				164,333				164,333
HELP Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V.				270,000				270,000
HSA Humanitarian Support Agency		607,760						607,760
Human Appeal		535,000						535,000
ICMC International Catholic Migration Commission		250,000						250,000
IMC International Medical Corps		6,490,298						6,490,298
INTERSOS				80,000				80,000
IOM International Organization for Migration	51,000,000	39,597,859	5,600,000	1,900,000	2,400,000	10,500,000	1,220,000	112,217,859
IRC International Rescue Committee		15,250,000						15,250,000
IsraAid		480,456						480,456
JRS Jesuit Refugee Services					166,589			166,589
KPSM-ERP Integration Centre for Migrant Workers – Ecumenical Refugee Program		159,000						159,000
La Strada International			701,586					701,586
Legis			606,389					606,389
Libraries without Borders		518,000						518,000
Macedonian Center for International Cooperation			104,637					104,637
Macedonian Red Cross			2,749,000					2,749,000
MDM Médecins du Monde		7,000,330						7,000,330
Mercy Corps		6,940,000	91,287					7,031,287

Organization	Turkey	Greece	fYR Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Regional	Slovenia	Total
MYLA Macedonian Young Lawyer's Association			583,849					583,849
Network For Children's Rights		2,091,600						2,091,600
NOSTOS 'Nostos' Organisation for Social Integration		1,313,160						1,313,160
NRC Norwegian Refugee Council		2,530,000						2,530,000
Nun Kultura			260,000					260,000
OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights			40,000	90,000		190,462		320,462
Operation Mercy			84,660					84,660
Oxfam		5,201,521						5,201,521
PIC Legal Information Centre for Non-Governmental Organizations							35,500	35,500
Salvation Army		243,625						243,625
Samaritan's Purse		16,356,086						16,356,086
SCI Save the Children		5,207,259		1,440,000	360,000			7,007,259
SLOGA Slovenian Development and Humanitarian NGO Platform							139,000	139,000
Solidarites International		1,425,550						1,425,550
Solidarity Now		4,390,000						4,390,000
SRC Slovenian Red Cross							175,000	175,000
Translators without Borders		1,000,000						1,000,000
UN Women	146,880		90,000	343,440				580,320
UNDP United Nations Development Programme			3,000,000	2,300,000		500,000		5,800,000
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund	4,500,000	6,000,000	184,148	300,000				10,984,148
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	9,263,505	300,141,899	6,324,190	10,634,694	2,163,436	48,114,674	3,674,426	380,316,824
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund	7,020,000	10,000,000	3,007,957	1,490,000	850,000	7,597,271	1,410,000	31,375,228
UNV United Nations Volunteers						660,000		660,000
WAHA Women and Health Alliance International in partnership with Zavod Krog							210,000	210,000
WHO World Health Organization	2,000,000		30,000	500,000		160,000		2,690,000
Total	73,930,385	466,836,326	26,014,080	20,729,867	7,444,775	67,972,407	6,939,274	669,867,115

Financial Requirements by Sector and Country (US Dollars)

Sector	Turkey	Greece	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Slovenia	Regional	Total
Protection	61,079,075	220,489,887	7,496,786	9,472,257	3,608,168	4,836,255	43,128,151	350,110,579
Education		5,440,759	50,000	280,000		594,246		6,365,005
Food		29,692,988	2,716,870	1,436,672				33,846,530
Health and Nutrition	4,750,000	17,714,703	2,363,667	2,357,996	875,000	344,000	637,271	29,042,637
Logistics, Telecommunications and Logistics		7,988,813		100,000		620,359		8,709,172
Shelter and NFIs	7,570,430	123,287,329	6,217,125	3,525,215	1,769,082	55,000	17,089,296	159,513,477
Site Management Support		13,561,719						13,561,719
Support to local communities			3,000,000	2,704,000			500,000	6,204,000
WASH		22,407,236	2,709,205	158,000		50,000	470,000	25,794,441
Operational Support	530,880	26,252,893	1,460,427	695,727	1,192,525	439,415	6,147,689	36,719,556
Total	73,930,385	466,836,326	26,014,080	20,729,867	7,444,775	6,939,274	67,972,407	669,867,115

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