

WC/UN High Level Conference

Refugee Crisis in Europe



Xavier Creach, Bureau for Europe, UNHCR

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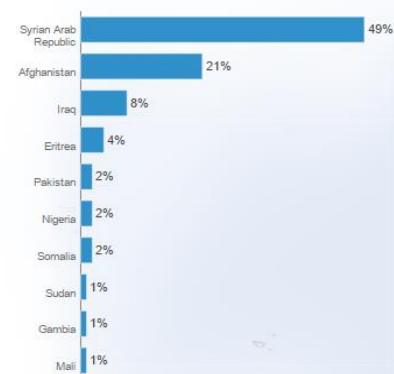


Regional Overview 2015

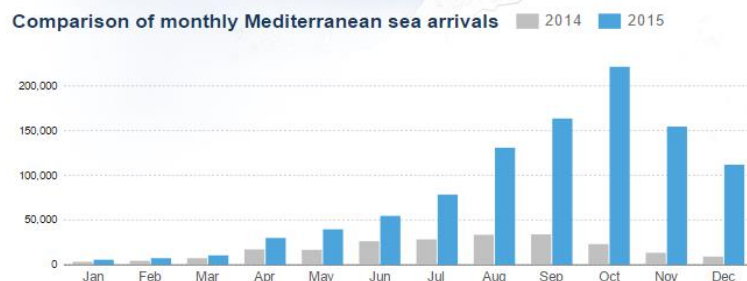
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 90% of the sea arrivals



Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



Evolution - Mediterranean Sea

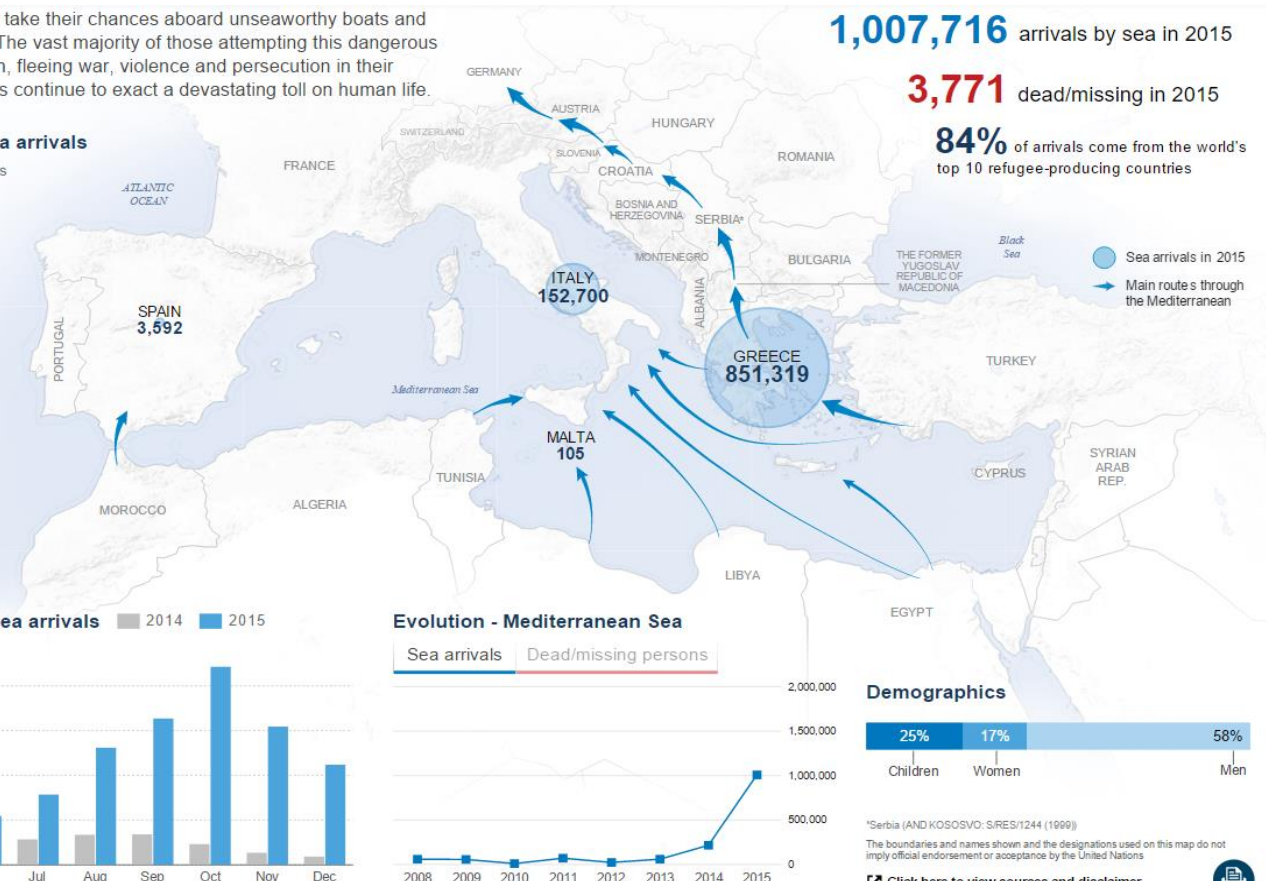
Sea arrivals Dead/missing persons



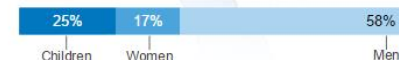
1,007,716 arrivals by sea in 2015

3,771 dead/missing in 2015

84% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



Demographics



*Serbia (AND KOSOVO): S/RES/1244 (1999)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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Overview

- Immediate Protection Concerns.
- Long-Term impact on the institution of Asylum.
- Responsibility of Governments.
- Partnership.



Access to Territory

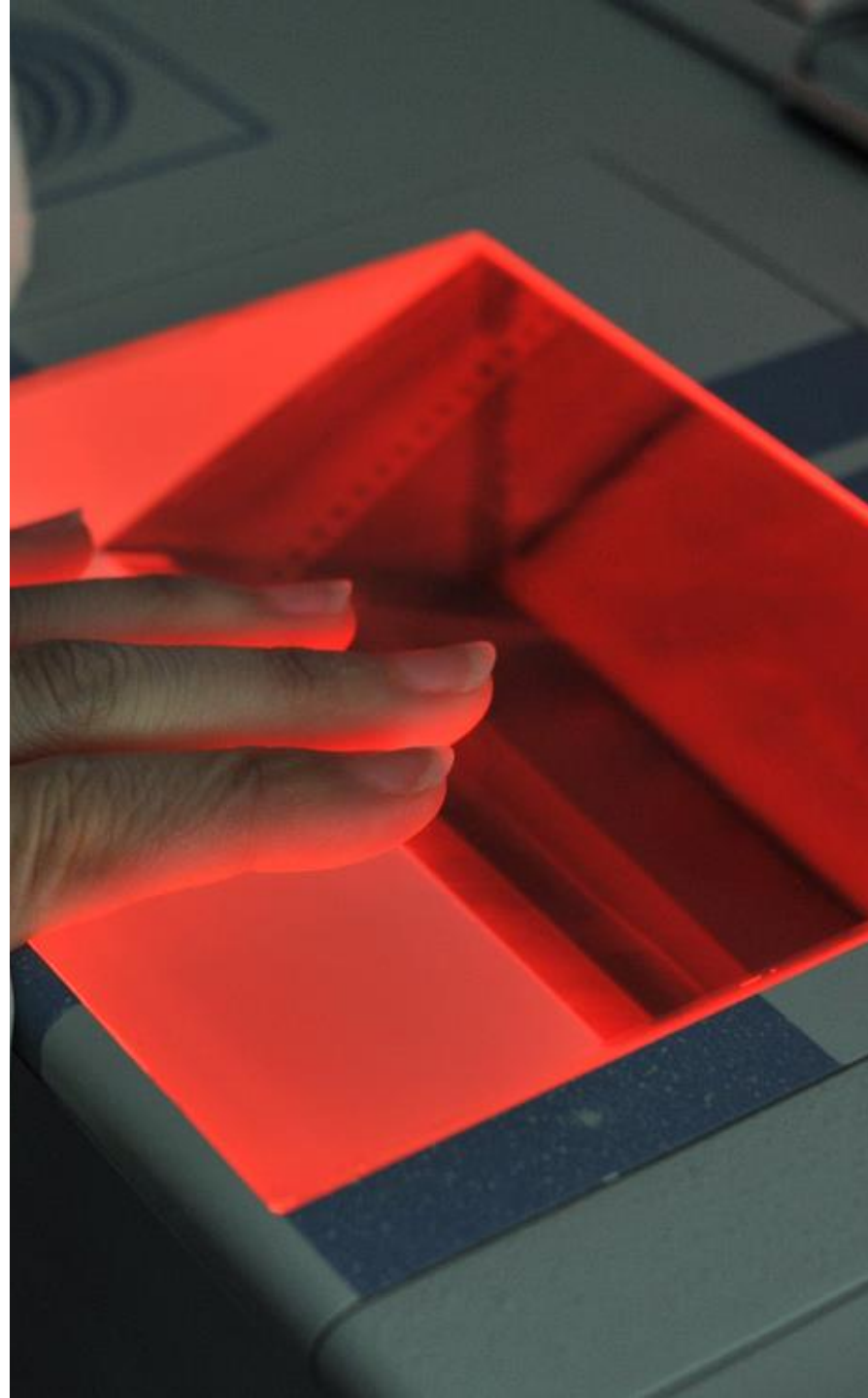
Access to territory vs. pushback and even, potentially, indirect *refoulement*:

- The situation is constantly evolving with some borders being closed.
- Report of pushback at sea, sometimes putting the lives of refugees at risk.
- In some instances, disproportionate use of force and violence by police forces have been reported.
- Generate family separation.
- Three nationalities authorized to move onward (selection not based on protection needs).
- Increase security risks for refugees (Smuggling and trafficking, attacks on refugees).

Registration

Challenges:

- Lack of capacity and maybe sometimes of political will.
- No harmonized system across the borders.
- Many people are not getting registered (security concern, challenge for identification of groups with specific needs).
- Selection based on nationalities, increase risk of frauds, tension between communities, smuggling.
- Nationality assessments not according to standards.



Reception Conditions

Challenges:

- Largely insufficient and inadequate.
- Weather conditions.
- Many shelters are not gender sensitive and no SGBV prevention.
- UASC staying with adults without regard to gender sensitivity.
- Many families (including pregnant women and UASC) end up having to sleep in parks, on the streets, etc. exposing them to increased security risks.





Identification, referral and protection of PWSN

Main challenges:

- People are in a hurry to cross while borders are open and resist identification/referrals.
- National authorities to which cases are referred are often weak and unprepared to cope with the influx.
- Family reunification too slow to implement and people move on.
- Detention of UASC.
- Violence and abuse (including survival sex).
- Psychological Distress.

Long-Term impact on the Institution of Asylum

- Erosion of acquired principles and increasing use of “deterrent” practice/concepts: Safe country of origin, safe third country, criminalization of illegal entries, push-backs, fences, etc.
- Lack of solidarity/responsibility between EU Member states:
 - Unequal distribution of refugees amongst EU Member States
 - Competition to be a “less attractive” country.
- Refugee Status Determination procedure are not equipped to deal with these number of asylum claims.
- Integration.
- Politicization of the “asylum” theme.
- Xenophobia/Racism: The wide media coverage has created unprecedented solidarity towards refugees but also very serious xenophobic reactions, including from top political leaders. Some extreme right groups have physically attacked refugees in various countries (Greece, Hungary, etc.).

Vision & Protection Priorities

Countries and institutions in Europe demonstrate responsibility, solidarity, and predictability internally, towards neighbouring countries and countries of origin through a strong and effective common asylum system that is safely accessible to people in need of international protection.

SO 1:

Access to territory and the asylum is safe.

SO 2:

Access to a protection centred, participatory emergency response is ensured.

SO 3:

Access to effective protection systems and durable solutions is reinforced.

Example:

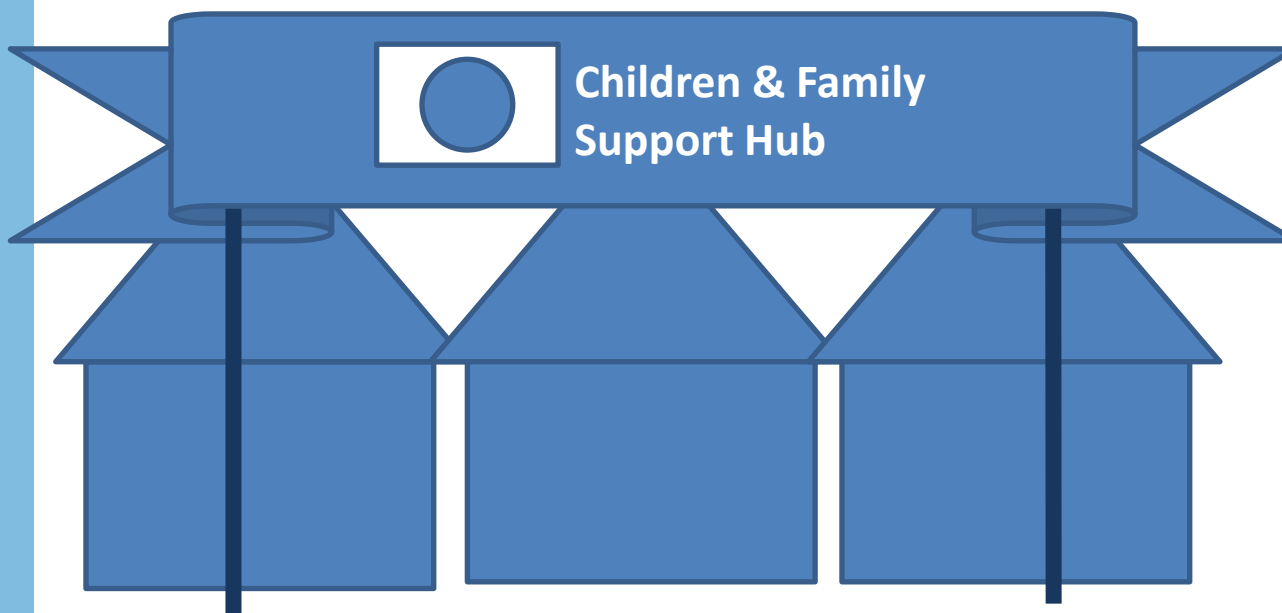
Children and Family Support Hubs

Concept:

- Provide minimum set of services under one logo in close proximity
- In all key transit points
- Predictable: information on locations and services available throughout the journey

Services:

- Restoring Family Links
- Family reunification
- Child friendly space
- Private space for psychosocial and medical first aid
- Legal counselling
- Emergency sleeping space for PWSN
- Access to specific NFIs and Pep kits
- Information desk





Thank You!