

## **Official data by UNCHR: Arrivals to Greece in 2015**

April of 2015 saw a radical change in numbers – in fact Greece received double the number of refugees back then in comparison with March.

In **March** Greece received **7,874** refugees while in April **13,556**.

This number reached **100,000** last August.

The majority of arrivals took place in **October** with **211,663** refugees that is around **8,700 per day**.

**One in five** arrivals in **2015 were children**, including unaccompanied ones, of a very young age even newborns, 49% of which were coming from conflict zones.

In 2015, **55%** of the total number of refugees were **men**, **17% women**, **28% children**. The majority of them have been citizens of **Syria – by 57%**, **Afghanistan by 24%**, and **Iraq by 9%**.

In the first months of **2016** the balance of adult to children refugees changed.

**36%** of refugees have been **children**, **21% women** and **43% men**. It is has been the first time since the outburst of the crisis that the number of children **represented 1/3 of arrivals to Greece**.

Lack of secure and legal ways has been the main reason why **2015** has been a year with increased deaths in the sea. **805 people lost their lives in the Aegean Sea**, according to official data by the International Organization for Migration, 30% of them children. As of **September 2015 until March of 2016, 340 children drowned** in the Aegean while trying to reach the Greek shores.

As of **11 February 2016, 77,309 refugees out of 80,000** entered the EU through Greece.

Overall, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) recent data states that in **2015 more than 857,000 out of 1,000,000 refugees entered the EU** through Greece.

### **The current situation**

A total of **57,155** migrants and asylum-seekers are currently in Greece according to fresh **data provided by the Greek government**.

According to the same data, 23,675 individuals are currently in northern Greece, 1,703 in central Greece, and 240 in southern Greece. An estimated 8,643 people are scattered around the Aegean islands.

Meanwhile, up to 10,198 refugees are currently staying at official centres set up in Attica region, while the number of those camping out at makeshift facilities is 4,915.

**More than 15,500 asylum-seekers currently living on mainland Greece have now received temporary cards**, valid for one year, allowing them to reside legally in Greece pending a final decision on their asylum applications.

A large-scale exercise to pre-register asylum seekers on mainland Greece was launched on June 8 by the Greek Asylum Service with UNHCR's support. Pre-registration also gives them the right to access services, pending the full lodging of their asylum application. The pre-registration exercise aims to address the need to access international protection by people currently on mainland Greece. The process is open to those who entered Greece between January 1, 2015, and March 20, 2016.

In regards to the results of the EU – Turkey deal it seems that the number of migrants being sent back to Turkey from Greece has fallen well short of EU expectations. **Fewer than 400 of the 8,500 people who have arrived on the Greek islands since the March 20 EU deal with Ankara — aimed at reducing migrant flows — have been returned to Turkey**, according to figures from the Greek government's migration co-ordination unit. Instead, **Athens has approved more than 30 per cent of the 600 asylum applications from Syrians that have been assessed since March 20**, a significantly higher percentage than anticipated, according to European officials and aid workers.