



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 17 December 2015



Highlights

IOM distributed hygiene kits to migrants waiting for their flight back to Mali. © IOM Libya, 2015

■ Between 19 June and 16 December, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the IOM team together with the Border Police and the NGO, Young Lawyers Registration, registered a total of 345,211 refugees and migrants.

■ Between 5 – 10 December, IOM staff supported the Turkish Coast Guard with the provision of food distribution to 248 migrants and refugees. Those assisted included people from Syria, Iraq, Somalia, and Afghanistan. IOM is also finalizing the procurement of blankets as well as contracting transportation companies to provide further support in Kucukkuyu.

■ Under the pilot EU relocation programme, IOM continues to provide transportation of refugees from Greece to other EU member states. As of 16 December, IOM has assisted with the relocation of 82 refugees to Luxembourg, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, and Portugal. All refugees being relocated are provided with pre-departure assistance and are escorted by IOM staff until their final destination.

■ On 1 December, IOM facilitated and completed the humanitarian repatriation of 170 Malian nationals, including 13 females and 3 infants, who were stranded in Libya.

■ On 9 December, the IOM team in Slovenia started conducting the Flow Monitoring survey at the accommodation centre in Sentilj. The survey will provide information on basic trends and profiles of the migrants and refugees with respect to demographics, countries of origins, levels of education, and intended destination.

■ Following their Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activity at the Opatovac transit centre and since the opening of the Slavonski Brod reception centre, IOM's DTM team have been consistently gathering data on the migration flow. By 14 December, the team reported almost 1,000 successfully completed questionnaires from the two sites.

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

The number of arrivals by sea and land to Europe for 2015 is expected to exceed one million soon, with 990,671 arrivals registered by relevant national authorities as of 16 December. The vast majority of these numbers have arrived to Greece, which accounts for 806,175 people (81.3 per cent of all arrivals). Italy accounts for the second largest number of arrivals, with 150,317 people (15 per cent of all arrivals).

IOM estimates that more than 55,000 migrants and refugees have crossed into Greece since the beginning of December. In addition, the death toll in the Aegean continues to increase with approximately 684 deaths since the start of the year. On 15 December, there were more than 10 reported incidents off the coasts of Lesbos, Samos and Chios that required search and rescue missions by the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG). During the rescue missions, HCG ships saved 324 migrants and refugees and transferred them to the port of the respective islands.

From 10 to 16 December, 23,452 migrants and refugees were registered arriving in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, bringing the total of migrants and refugees who have entered the country from 19 June to 16 December up to 345,211. Of this total, 55.4% were men, 16.4% were women, and 28% were children (the gender breakdown for children is not available). Almost 19% of all the children were unaccompanied. 57% of all registered arrivals were Syrian nationals, 24.4% were Afghan nationals, and 12% were Iraqi nationals.

Between 10 to 16 December, arrivals into Serbia from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia averaged 3,118 people per day and a total of 527,958 people have been registered as of 16 December. As an additional step in monitoring and recording the migration flow, the Government, as of 4 November, has started registering those migrants and refugees exiting the country from the railway station in Sid.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, a total of 509,399 migrants and refugees have arrived in Croatia between 16 September and 16 December. Security measures at the Slavonski Brod reception centre have been increased due to the recent attacks in Paris and the high alert in Brussels. Upon their registration at the reception centre, migrants and refugees immediately board a train to leave for Slovenia.

With a fence constructed in the southwest border with Croatia, the number of migrants and refugees entering into

Slovenia has been decreasing, with numbers averaging 3,063 people per day during the first half of December. As of 16 December, a total of 331,293 migrants and refugees have entered into the country, with the top five nationalities coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Pakistan.

IOM RESPONSE

The Early Warning Information Sharing Network is fully functional in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia. This network is a pilot component of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring System that allows regular and timely sharing of information between countries about migrant flows. IOM continues to gather and process data on the migration flows along the routes and border points and distribute information to relevant stakeholders, including government authorities.

In addition to providing data on migrant flows, the flow monitoring system helps inform the type of assistance needed and identify vulnerabilities among the population. IOM staff continue to work with NGOs, other international organizations and local authorities on migration management, identification of vulnerable cases and referral to relevant authorities. The information provided through this network allows partners to effectively plan and provide essential support to migrants in several key locations.

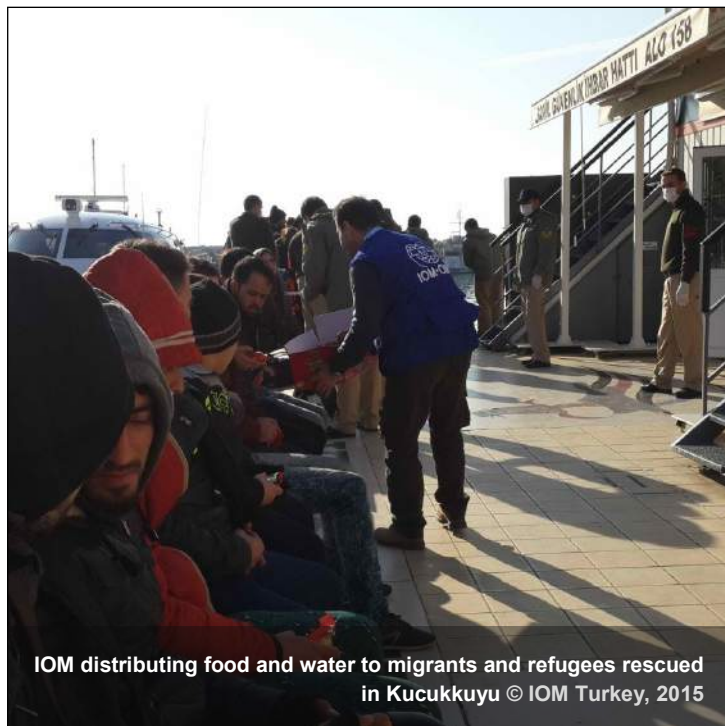


Migrants and Refugees Rescued by Turkish coast guards © IOM
Turkey, 2015

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey

From 1 January to 6 December, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) have rescued a total of 85,842 persons, averaging 255 migrants rescued per day. On 11 December, IOM delivered three life-saving rescue platforms to the TCG regional commands in Izmir and an additional four more platforms are expected to be delivered by IOM in the next month.



IOM distributing food and water to migrants and refugees rescued in Kucukkuyu © IOM Turkey, 2015

After conducting field visits to six locations in Kucukkuyu (Çanakkale), Ayvalık (Balıkesir), Dikili (İzmir), Çeşme (İzmir), Didim (Aydın) and Bodrum (Muğla), where migrants and refugees enter and are rescued or apprehended, IOM has begun providing humanitarian assistance in Kucukkuyu. Between 5 – 10 December, IOM staff supported the TCG with the provision of food distribution to 248 migrants and refugees. Those assisted included people from Syria, Iraq, Somalia, and Afghanistan. IOM is also finalizing the procurement of blankets as well as contracting transportation companies to provide further support in Kucukkuyu.

Greece

Under the pilot EU relocation programme, IOM continues to provide transportation of refugees from Greece to other EU member states. As of 16 December, IOM has assisted with

the relocation of 82 refugees to Luxembourg, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, and Portugal. All refugees being relocated are provided with pre-departure assistance and are escorted by IOM staff until their final destination.

With the opening of a reception facility in Athens to accommodate migrants wishing to return safely to their country of origin, IOM has started to process and provide assisted voluntary return services. In order to ensure a rapid response to the increasing number of return applications submitted, IOM staff implements regular visits to the facilities provided by the Government to accommodate those migrants wishing to return to their country of origin, and provides on the spot registration.

IOM maintains a permanent presence at the First Reception Centres currently operating in Lesbos and Samos islands in order to provide migrants of their legal rights. In addition to having specialized staff in the centres that provide legal information to migrants, IOM has also deployed interpreters that offer translation services to stakeholders operating within the centres ensuring that partners delivering essential services and migrants are able to effectively communicate.

The First Reception Service (FRS) has requested IOM's support in enhancing the services already provided in the island of Lesbos. In addition to the provision of legal information to new migrants and refugees in their native language, IOM will provide escort services to unaccompanied children from Lesbos Island to accommodation facilities in other parts of Greece, where the unaccompanied children will then be provided with the necessary assistance.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Between 19 June and 16 December, the IOM team together with the Border Police and the NGO, Young Lawyers Registration, registered a total of 345,211 refugees and migrants.

To respond to the onset of the winter season and the need to adjust reception assistance accordingly, IOM has provided eight containers equipped for the cold weather to serve as temporary reception points for migrants and refugees arriving in Gevgelija and Kumanovo. IOM has also donated a transformer to help provide electricity to the reception centre in Gevgelija.

IOM RESPONSE

Serbia

As part of the Early Warning Information Sharing Network, IOM teams continue to be present at the southern border between Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to assist border police at the entry point in Miratovac with flow monitoring. IOM continues to provide incoming migrants and refugees with necessary information and referrals to the registration centre in Presevo.

IOM staff also continue to support the registration process at the registration centre in Presevo and assists approximately 2,000 migrants and refugees per day in filling in the registration questionnaire.

The installation of a transit centre in Miratovac has been finalized and has begun operating as of 15 December. For the new centre, IOM installed a total of 29 containers (16 to be used as rest areas for all migrants and refugees, six for identified vulnerable migrants and refugees, four for border police staff, one for the storage of humanitarian relief items, one for IOM staff, and one for UNICEF staff). This new transit centre will be able to accommodate up to 500 migrants and refugees.

IOM continues to offer transportation assistance from the Miratovac transit centre to the Presevo registration centre. Approximately 1,000 vulnerable migrants are provided with this transport assistance each day.

Croatia

Following their DTM activity at the Opatovac transit centre and since the opening of the Slavonski Brod reception centre, IOM's DTM team have been consistently gathering data on the migration flow. By 14 December, the team reported almost 1,000 successfully completed questionnaires from the two sites. The questionnaires are regularly processed and analysed, and the results are shared with the Ministry of the Interior. IOM is in the process of expanding its DTM team and the overall Early Warning Information Sharing Network by adding four additional data collectors.

During the period 4 – 14 December, approximately 3,300 people were registered per day in Croatia with the highest arrival numbers during this period registered on 12 December with a total of 5,225.



Slovenia

On 9 December, IOM started conducting the Flow Monitoring survey at the accommodation centre in Sentilj. The survey will provide information on basic trends and profiles of the migrants and refugees with respect to demographics, countries of origins, levels of education, and intended destination.

IOM will focus on assisting Slovenian authorities through the provision of adequate reception facilities and services to migrants and refugees and will deploy a medical team to points of entry and exit and to transit centres. In coordination with the Slovenian Agency for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, IOM will begin distributing essential non-food items including sleeping mats, beds, hygiene kits, and mobile toilet bathroom units.

IOM will also focus on the identification of vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking, and provide them with access to specialized services. Attention will be given to unaccompanied and separated children as well as persons in need of medical attention and psychosocial support. In addition, counter-trafficking efforts will be strengthened through IOM's assistance to the border police and staff at the reception centre in order to prevent abuse and exploitation by traffickers and criminal networks.

IOM RESPONSE

Italy

IOM continues to support Italian authorities in identifying vulnerable migrants at landing points and reception centres. IOM assists with the identification and referral of vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children and migrants in need of health services, to the relevant authorities for specialized assistance.

IOM teams in Apulia, Calabria, Lampedusa and Sicily composed of field officers and cultural mediators and interpreters continue to meet with migrants at landing points and in reception centres and support them with legal counselling and assistance. These teams provide information to migrants regarding Italian Immigration procedures and provide migrants with information on the risks of irregular migration. In addition to this, these teams also monitor activities at the reception centres to ensure that activities respect migrant's rights.

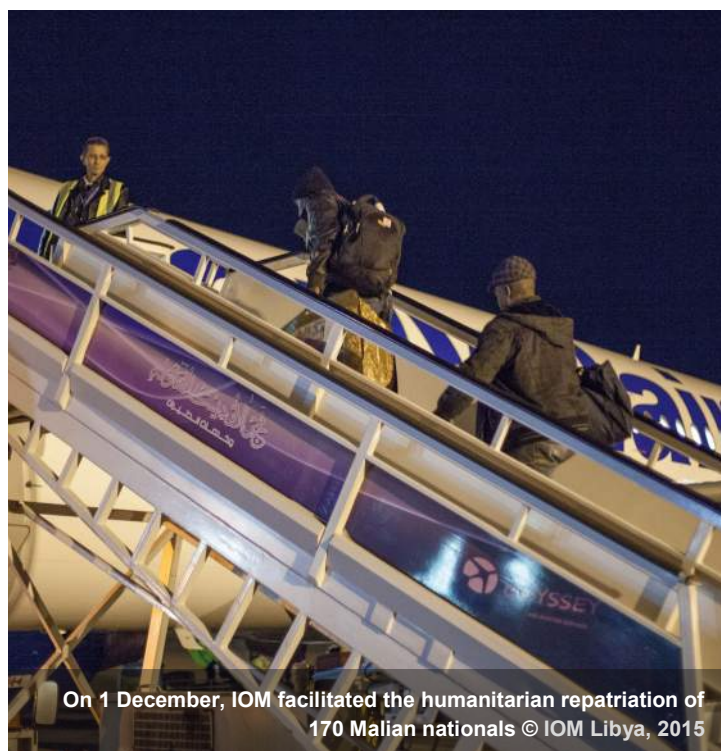


Migrants rescued off the coast of Sicily © IOM Italy, 2015

From 1 January until 17 December, IOM, together with its partners and through its legal roving teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, has assisted more than 400 landings and provided assistance and legal counselling to around 95 per cent of the migrants arrived by sea.

Libya

On 1 December, IOM facilitated and completed the humanitarian repatriation of 170 Malian nationals, including 13 females and 3 infants, who were stranded in Tripoli. The movement was organized in close cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Tripoli, who also accommodated all single migrants for an overnight stay on their premises the night before the flight. IOM staff distributed food, beverages and hygiene kits to all migrants accommodated at the Embassy. Almost all migrants have entered Libya irregularly—through the use of smuggling networks from Algeria to Libya and a few having entered through Niger.



On 1 December, IOM facilitated the humanitarian repatriation of 170 Malian nationals © IOM Libya, 2015

After having failed to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, the majority of the returnees were previously detained in migrant detention centres. One migrant woman, *Myriam*, informed IOM, “I paid around USD \$1,000 to the smugglers to bring me to Tripoli via Algeria. It was a hard exhausting one-month trip. Then 1,200 LYD (USD \$920) to the smugglers in Zwara to cross the sea...I have suffered a lot in order to be with my husband in Spain...I am so grateful to the IOM for ending my misery and bringing me back to my baby in Mali.”

IOM RESPONSE

Libya (continued)



Family of Malian migrants waiting for their flight back home © IOM Libya, 2015

This first charter is just the beginning of a series of charter flights that IOM is planning to organize in the coming months, in particular to Burkina Faso, Senegal and again to Mali. In preparation for the second charter, which is scheduled for 17 December, IOM has finished interviewing 177 Burkinabe migrants, conducting their medical checks, and provided them with exit visas.



IOM providing pre-departure medical checks © IOM Libya, 2015

IOM is also working on producing materials to raise awareness on human trafficking. To date, IOM has assisted in the production of short films, animation, posters and stickers, all of which will be distributed to target populations before the end of the year.



Returning migrants on their way to Mali © IOM Libya, 2015

Niger

As of 16 December, IOM estimates that over 100,000 migrants have entered and transited through the country, hoping to get to Libya, Algeria or Europe. From this number, approximately 8,000 having returned from Libya and Algeria, with the top five nationalities coming from Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Nigeria and Guinea Bissau.

On 8 December, IOM registered another convoy of 226 migrants returning from Algeria in the Agadez transit centre. This was the 22nd convoy of returning migrants since December 2014. On 11 December, IOM registered another 295 migrants, including 65 women and 130 children. Of this total, 72 per cent originated from the Zinder region. All registered migrants were provided with temporary accommodation and medical screening before being transported to their villages of origin.

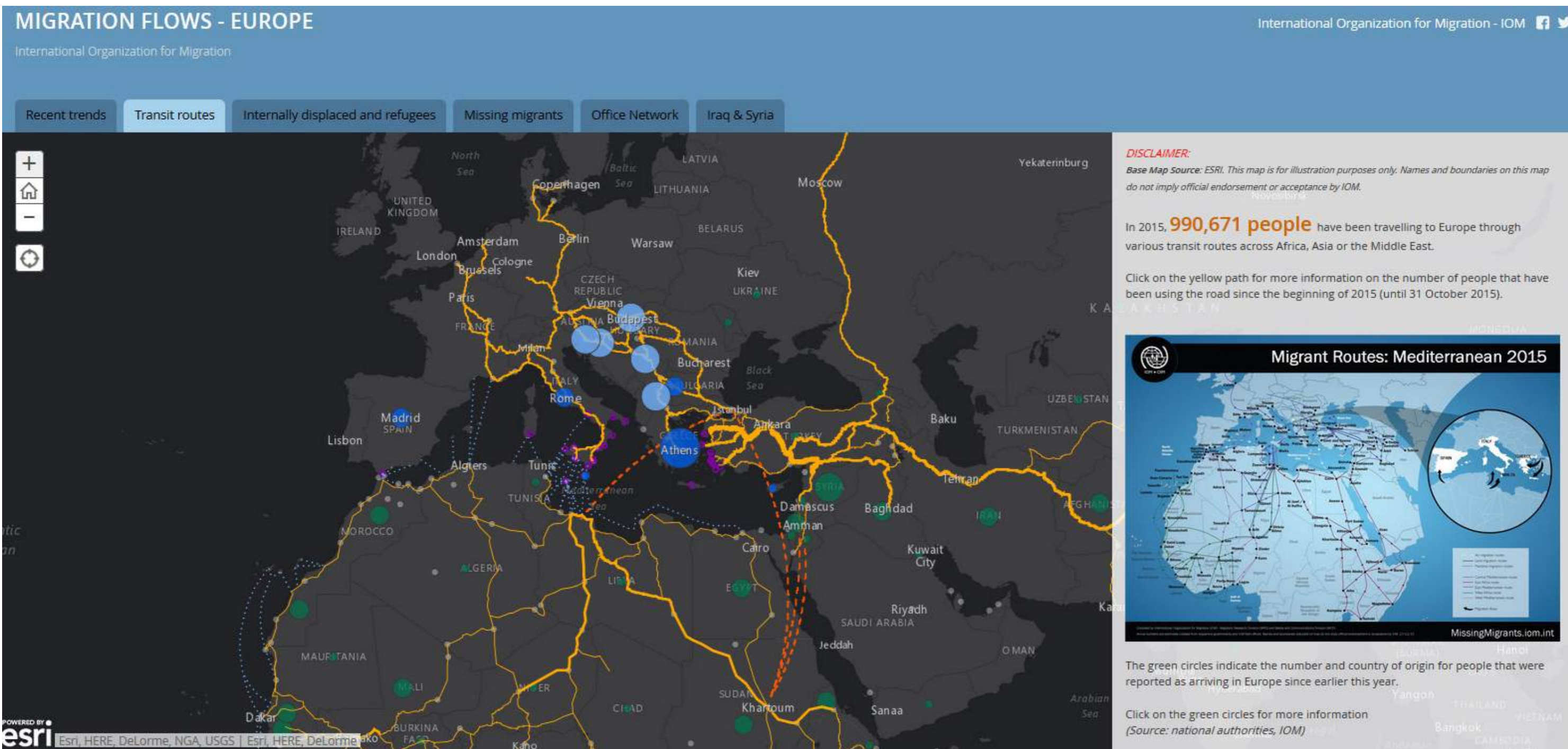
Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

IOM's **online portal** provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the total number of people that travelled to Europe. An updated version of the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

Recent trends

Between 02 December - 16 December

Country	Greece	Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Slovenia	Hungary	Italy
Registered Arrivals	57,267	52,478	41,139	46,553	45,567	101	6,112
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (17 November—1st December)	Increase of 26%	Increase of 33%	decrease of 7%	decrease of 10%	decrease of 14%	increase of 71 %	increase of 255%



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

Movement Trends and Numbers

ARRIVALS

Italy **150,317**

Estimate arrivals as of 16 December
Source: IOM

Greece **806,175**

Estimate arrivals for land and sea
as of 16 December
Source: IOM

Macedonia **345,211**

People registered between June to
16 December
Source: Government

Serbia **527,958**

Estimate arrivals as of 16 December
Source: IOM

Croatia **509,399**

Estimate arrivals as of 16 December
Source: Government

Slovenia **331,293**

Initial estimate as of 16 December
Source: Government


Hungary **391,241**

Estimate arrivals as of 14 December
Source: Government

Bulgaria **29,959**

Estimate arrivals as of 10 December
Source: Government

MOBILITY TRACKING & MAPPING

 **POINTS of INTEREST** include Border Crossing Points (Entry/Exit), Organized Transit Points/Reception Centres, and Spontaneous Transit Points.

*Mapping and tracking exercise is ongoing and points will be refined on the next update.

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

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As of 16 December 2015
sources: IOM • feedback: prd@iom.int

