



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 2 June 2016



IOM provided food and water to rescued migrants and refugees in Küçükuyu © IOM Turkey 2016

Highlights

■ During the reporting period, IOM assisted the Turkish Coast Guard by providing a total of 493 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs, including blankets, clothing and shoes.

■ On 19 May, IOM Libya facilitated the charter flight and return of 171 stranded Senegalese migrants. The repatriation was done in close cooperation with Libyan authorities, Senegal's Embassy in Tripoli, and IOM offices in Senegal and Algeria.

■ To date, IOM Greece has assisted 1,142 asylum seekers as part of the EU relocation programme. All beneficiaries are provided with pre-departure medical checks as well as extensive cultural orientation sessions.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 1 June 2016, 211,408 migrants and refugees have arrived to Europe by land and sea routes since the start of 2016, the majority of whom have entered by sea through Greece (158,023) and Italy (47,851).

According to the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), between 27-29 May, there were three boat incidents off the coasts of Lesbos and Samos islands that required search and rescue operations. The HCG managed to rescue 99 migrants and refugees who were then transferred for further processing to the respective islands.

As of 31 May, the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) have rescued 25,609 migrants and refugees, while 173 lives were lost at sea, since the start of this year.

The period 25-31 May marked the deadliest week in the Mediterranean Sea so far this year where 1,083 people are estimated to have lost their lives or gone missing in nine separate boat incidents. The largest incident occurred on 26 May where approximately 500 migrants disappeared, including 40 children, about 35 nautical miles north of Zuwara, Libya.

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Central Mediterranean route, between North Africa and Italy, continues to be extremely dangerous. Since 2014, more than 20 incidents along this route resulted in over 100 recorded deaths and disappearances each. This route represents 27 per cent of sea arrivals to Europe since the start of 2014 but accounts for 85 per cent of migrant deaths in the Mediterranean during the same period.

There is a stark difference in terms of the number of bodies that are recovered from the water depending on the route. In 2016, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the bodies that have perished in the Eastern Mediterranean have been recovered, while less than 10 per cent have been recovered in the Central Mediterranean. The high contrast reinforces the fact that the numbers of deaths at sea can never be exact. In cases of maritime migration, it is often difficult to determine the total number of people who were on a boat that sank and often the only source of information are statements from survivors, who may not be sure or aware of the original number of people on board. To learn more about those that have gone missing and the fatalities in the Mediterranean, go to <http://missingmigrants.iom.int/>. The full report on the spike in migrant deaths in the month of May can also be read [here](#).

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey

IOM continues to provide support to the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) through the distribution of food, water and non-food items (NFIs) to rescued migrants and refugees. During the reporting period, IOM assisted the TCG in Dikili (a district of Izmir province where migrants and refugees cross to the island of Lesbos in Greece) by providing 220 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs, including blankets, clothing and shoes. The majority of those rescued at sea in Dikili came from Syria and Eritrea.

In Çeşme, IOM supported the TCG through the provision of food, water and NFIs to 220 migrants and refugees who were rescued at sea during the reporting period. Additionally, in Küçükkuşu, IOM provided food, water and NFIs to 53 migrants and refugees who had been rescued at sea by the TCG.



IOM assisted migrants and refugees rescued at sea in Çeşme
© IOM Turkey 2016

Greece

Through the appointment of camp coordination and camp management focal points to assist authorities in the operation of newly established camps, IOM continues to provide support to the Government and assist with the overall operation of accommodation camps in Attica and Northern Greece. IOM is in the process of completing a needs assessments conducted at accommodation facilities in order to provide additional services based on current needs, including the purchase and provision of non-food items.

To date, IOM has assisted 1,142 asylum seekers (680 males and 462 females) as part of the EU relocation programme. All beneficiaries are provided with pre-departure medical checks as well as extensive cultural orientation sessions that provide practical information on their respective country of destination. IOM also helps the refugees to set realistic goals and develop skills that can help them to succeed in their new environment. When necessary, IOM also provides escort service to cases involving unaccompanied children, people with medical needs, and in countries of transit.

IOM RESPONSE

Greece (continued)

IOM continues to provide assisted voluntary return (AVR) services for migrants who are seeking to safely return to their country of origin. IOM provides beneficiaries of this programme with services that include: information and counselling on return; pre-departure assistance; transit and reception assistance; and small reinstallation cash grants prior to departure. As of 1 June, IOM has registered 3,402 migrants since the start of the year who wish to return to their country of origin. Of this total, IOM has provided return assistance to 2,544 migrants, the majority of whom were from Morocco (973), Iraq (370), Iran (358), and Afghanistan (395).



IOM provided airport assistance to those relocating under the EU relocation programme © IOM Greece 2016

On 27 May, a boat with 64 migrants and refugees called for assistance off the coast of southern Crete. The Hellenic Coast Guard, along with two fishing boats, managed to transfer all the migrants and refugees to the Port of Siteia. On 28 May, IOM staff in Crete went to Siteia to welcome those that had been rescued and inform them of their rights

and options while in Greece. Among the 64 rescued people, 17 were children under the age of 16, including a 9 month old baby, and two unaccompanied minors, as well as two pregnant women. The Greek authorities provided food, dry clothes, and toys for the children.



IOM preparing NFIs for distribution at the island of Leros © IOM Greece 2016

One of the rescued migrants, a 40 year old Iraqi man, shared the following with IOM staff:

"I paid USD 5,000 in order to go to Italy and then to Scotland to find my family [3 children and my wife are in Glasgow]...on the ship, the smugglers took our mobile phones, and locked us in for most of the journey...they didn't give us food or water for 36 hours. Moreover, there was no toilet on our deck...The ship was decent, but the weather was severe. At one point, a nine-meter high wave broke the window of our ship and water came in. Everyone was crying, vomiting and some lost consciousness a few times. We were all scared and thought we were going to die. At this point, we called the coast guards and asked them to rescue us."

IOM RESPONSE

Serbia

IOM teams continue to provide counselling on assisted voluntary return (AVR) options to migrants who are seeking to return to their country of origin. IOM teams are deployed at Presevo Registration Centre, Dimitrovgrad, Sid and Kelebija/Horogs border crossing points.

Since mid-February 2016, IOM has provided AVR assistance to a total of 33 migrants. For those who decide to return to their country, IOM provides them with all necessary technical and logistical support, including: contact with relevant embassies, transport to the embassies, assistance with travel documents, travel arrangements, transit assistance, and assistance upon arrival to the country of origin.

Together with UNHCR, IOM also provides counselling to those seeking asylum in the country. Furthermore, for vulnerable families and individuals, IOM provides transportation to local institutions and service providers such as the local health centre and centre for social work.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

At the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Vizbegovo, IOM has completed the reconstruction of the building's façade and the drainage facility, which will help to improve the living conditions for those who are accommodated at the centre.

IOM has two mobile teams in the reception centres in Tabanovce and Gevgelija. Each team consists of three staff members (a translator, social worker and medical officer) who can help to address the needs of vulnerable populations among the remaining group of migrants and refugees. The mobile teams are actively monitoring and screening the remaining migrants and refugees to help ensure that those with vulnerabilities, especially victims of trafficking, are identified and referred to the appropriate services.

From 16-17 May and 18-19 May, IOM conducted two workshops in Kumanovo and two additional workshops in Gevgelija from 23-24 May and 25-26 May. Each workshop had an average of 28 representatives from the Border Police, the Red Cross, and local NGOs. The workshop topics

included: migration and health; recognition and referral of vulnerable migrants in mixed migration flows; skills for verbal and non-verbal communication with migrants; respecting the rights of migrants and refugees in accordance with international conventions; and, fundamental rights of migrants.

The workshops are part of the ongoing capacity building IOM is providing to stakeholders who work in the reception centres and support or interact with migrants and refugees on a daily basis.



Capacity building workshop conducted by IOM © IOM Skopje 2016

Croatia

IOM continues to provide English and Croatian language courses to those who remain stranded at the Reception Centre for asylum seekers in Zagreb. Along with language courses, IOM also provides culture orientation workshops twice a week. IOM ensures that information is accurately disseminated and communicated to the migrants through the use of cultural mediators who also act as interpreters. Craft workshops for women and sport activities for children are also organized at the Centre every afternoon.

During the reporting period, IOM purchased and provided supplies to the classrooms where the language and cultural orientation courses are held. Additional non-food items, including showers and toilets, will be purchased in the coming weeks to help improve the living conditions of those who are accommodated at the Centre.

IOM RESPONSE



Culture orientation workshop conducted by IOM at the reception centre in Zagreb © IOM Croatia 2016

Slovenia

On 19 May, IOM assisted a group of six Eritrean asylum seekers arriving in Slovenia as part of the EU relocation programme. The group were transported by bus to the Asylum Centre in Ljubljana where they will be provided with accommodation while their applications for international protection are processed.

Italy

Between 23-29 May, an increase of arrivals have been recorded, with over 13,000 migrants rescued in the channel of Sicily, while over 1,000 migrants have died in the same period trying to cross the channel. More than 1,000 women and over 800 unaccompanied minors arrived during this week. Nigerian women accounted for at least half of the total female population arriving and IOM informed the majority of them about the risks of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The spike in arrival numbers may be due to the fact that migrants are now coming from Libya on bigger boats that

can carry up to 700 people (where before many arrived on rubber dinghies carrying roughly 100-130 people). This helps to explain not only the higher number of arrivals but the increase in the number of fatalities as well.

IOM teams continue to be deployed at the main boat landing points in Sicily (including Lampedusa), Calabria, and Apulia. The IOM teams provide legal assistance to those arriving by sea, monitor the reception conditions of migrants, and support the identification of vulnerable populations. Vulnerable cases include unaccompanied children who were mistakenly identified as adults during their disembarkation procedures, witnesses in legal proceedings against smugglers, migrants in need of health and/or psychosocial support, and the elderly.

Libya

On 19 May, IOM facilitated the charter flight and return of 171 stranded Senegalese migrants. Of the group, 161 had spent several months in Libya's detention centres. Similar to other groups who had been provided with humanitarian repatriation by IOM, almost all the migrants who travelled on this charter had been detained as they were trying to travel to Europe, and the average age of the migrants was 25 years old.



Senegalese returnees arriving in Dakar © IOM Libya 2016

IOM RESPONSE

Libya (continued)

The repatriation was instigated after IOM organised a visit by eight West African embassies in Libya to Abu-Saleem and Al-Gweea detention centres between 2-3 May, where migrants expressed an interest to return to their country of origin. The repatriation was done in close cooperation with Libyan authorities, Senegal's Embassy in Tripoli, and IOM offices in Senegal and Algeria. IOM provided the migrants with clothes, shoes, underwear, and hygiene kits prior to their departure. Upon their return to Senegal, all 171 migrants were supported with an onward transportation grant to facilitate transportation to their final destination.

On the same day, 19 May, IOM also facilitated a high level inter-agency monitoring visit to the Abu-Saleem detention centre, which hosts approximately 450 migrants. The delegation was led by Martin Kobler, the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and included IOM Libya Chief of Mission, Othman Belbeisi.



Distribution of NFIs at a detention centre in Al-Zawyia © IOM Libya 2016

IOM held a two-day (19-20 May) workshop in Tunis, with its local implementing partners where the objective was to find solutions to improve coordination and harmonize approaches for data collection on the displaced and migrant populations in Libya, using displacement tracking matrix specific methodology.

From 24-25 May, IOM, in coordination with UNHCR, organized the third technical workshop and coordination meeting in Tunis on saving lives at sea. The workshop brought together 28 officials from the Ministries of Defence, Interior (including those from the Coast Guard, Border Points Security, and the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration), Health, and Justice, as well as representatives of the Italian Coast Guard, the Italian Ministry of Interior, the European Naval Force Mediterranean-Italy, the ICRC, and the Libyan Red Crescent. The workshop discussed the various dimensions of conducting search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean and brought stakeholders closer to creating a Technical Working Group and Contact Group that would bring together focal points from relevant Libyan entities and international organizations, to improve coordination and information sharing relevant to rescue at sea operations.

Between 23-29 May, IOM registered and interviewed 90 Nigerian migrants at the Abu Saleem detention centre who expressed an interest and willingness to return to their home country.

IOM is assisting some 3,500 migrants and refugees who had been intercepted at sea by the Libyan authorities from 22-28 May in several rescue operations near Al-Zawyia and Sabratha. They were subsequently transferred to the Abu Eisaa and Al Shuhada detention centres in Al-Zawyia. IOM provided healthcare services in four detention centres (Al-Zawyah, Al-Qwea, Al-Khums, and Musrata), where a total of 133 migrants were screened by medical teams from IOM's local implementing partners. IOM distributed 769 non-food item (NFI) kits (including blankets, pillows and mattresses) and hygiene kits to the newly arrived migrants at the two detention centres in Al-Zawyah. An additional 200 NFI and hygiene kits were delivered to Abu Eissa detention centre and 569 NFI and hygiene kits delivered to Al Shuhada detention centre.

Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

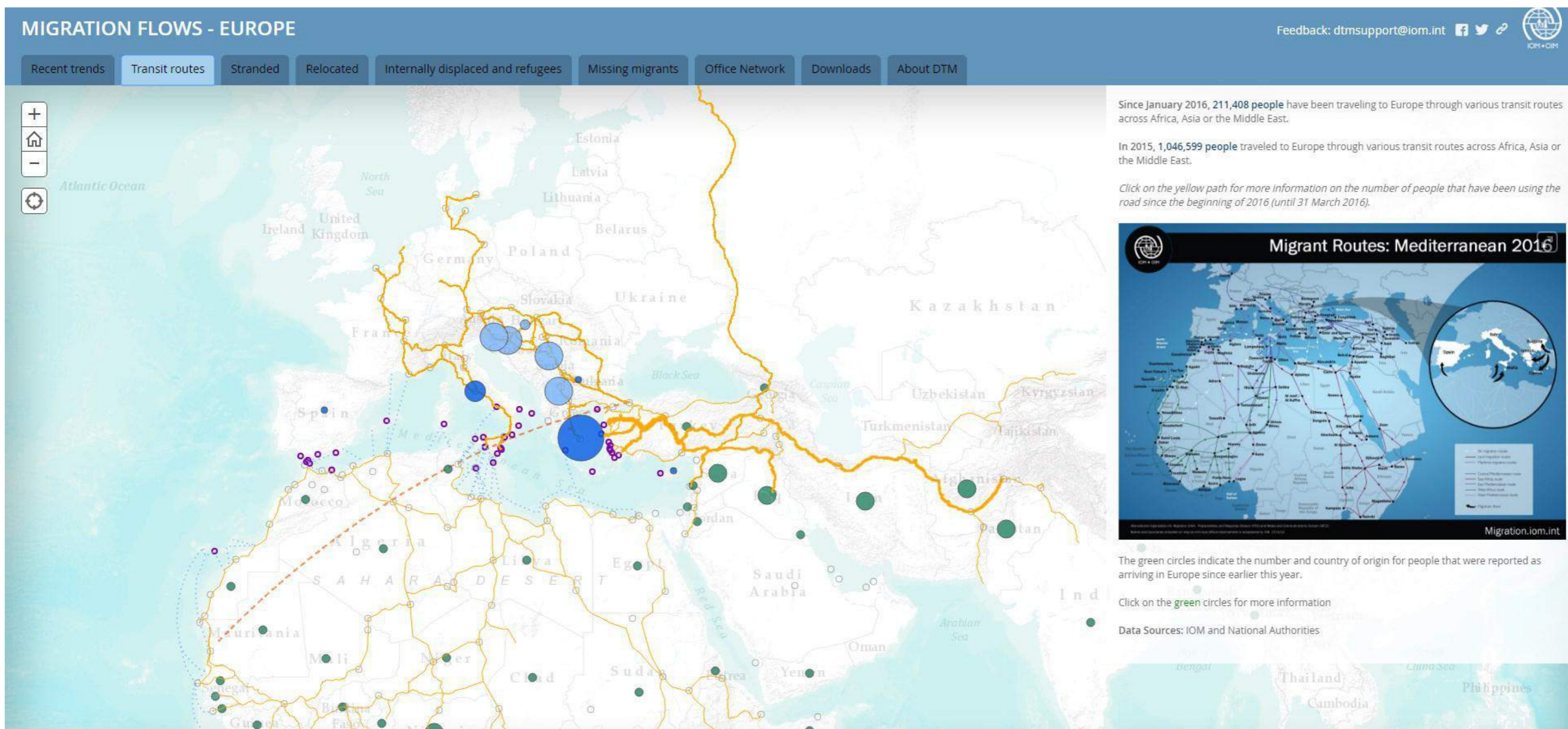
IOM's **online portal** provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the total number of people that travelled to Europe. An updated version of the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

Recent trends in migrant flow

Between 19 May — 1 June 2016*

Country	Greece	Bulgaria	Italy	fYR of Macedonia	Serbia	Hungary
Registered Arrivals	599	540	13,944	37	264	1,775
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (4 May—18 May)	Increase of 18%	Increase of 123%	Increase of 168%	Increase of 237%	Increase of 153%	Increase of 40%

*All other countries in the route have registered zero arrivals in the period between 21 April and 1 June. However there are stranded migrants in those countries. The number of stranded migrants is on the next page.



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

STRANDED MIGRANTS As of 31 May 2016

Greece **52,621**

Estimate stranded migrants as of 31 May
Source: National authorities, IOM and UNHCR

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **333**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 31 May
Source: National authorities

Serbia **391**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 31 May
Source: National authorities

Croatia **69**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 31 May
Source: National authorities

Slovenia **345**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 31 May
Source: National authorities

Hungary **2,345**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 31 May
Source: IOM and National authorities

Bulgaria **1,748**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 26 May
Source: Government



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

