



# EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 24 March 2016



### Highlights

IOM provided warm and dry clothes to rescued migrants and refugees in Küçükuyu © IOM Turkey, 2016

■ To further support the Turkish Coast Guards, IOM has provided staff in Çeşme to deliver NFIs and food to rescued migrants and refugees, and is planning to do the same in Dikili. Between 21-22 March, IOM provided food, water and NFIs to 273 migrants and refugees rescued by the TCG in Çeşme.

■ From 15-16 March, IOM conducted a counter-trafficking training for 25 border post agents in Agadez. The training was organised by the National Agency Against Human Trafficking (NAHT) and IOM under the umbrella of IOM's continued support to the NAHT agency.

■ From 15 – 23 March, IOM deployed a team of experts for an assessment mission to Greece. The team conducted site visits to areas where migrants and refugees are currently stranded, including visits to informal and formal camps in the Thessaloniki and Attica regions and Lesbos Island. On 23 March, IOM attended the first coordination meeting in Thessaloniki chaired by the Ministry of Migration Policy where five sectoral meetings were organized: health; WASH; protection; relocation; and, NFIs. IOM together with UNHCR will co-lead the NFI sector in the Thrace and Macedonia regions of northern Greece.

■ At the Slavonski Brod centre, migrants from Iraq and Afghanistan celebrated the New Year with the support of IOM and other humanitarian agencies. IOM promoted community work, provided crockery and decorations, and helped to develop the programme of the celebration.

■ On 17 March, European Union leaders reached a common position to present to Turkey for a joint agreement on migration, which was then accepted by Turkey on 18 March. The agreement went into effect on 20 March, and as a temporary and extraordinary measure, included the return of all new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into the Greek islands back to Turkey.

### CONTACTS:

Preparedness and Response Division

✉ [prd@iom.int](mailto:prd@iom.int)

Donor Relations Division

✉ [drd@iom.int](mailto:drd@iom.int)

☎ +41.22.7179.271

🌐 <http://www.iom.int>

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 22 March 2016, 164,961 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 (148,781) and Italy (13,777)

On 9 March, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia all announced that their borders would now be shut, closing down the Western Balkan route that has been used by migrants and refugees to get from Greece to northern Europe.

Due to the closure of the route, as of 22 March, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not received any additional migrants and refugees. On 15 March, a group of 2,000-5,000 migrants and refugees who were stationed at the Greek transit centre in Idomeni tried to cross the border into Gevgelija but were stopped by the Macedonian police and not allowed to enter. The majority were returned to the Greek side by 16 March. Since the start of the year, 89,623 migrants and refugees have been registered in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In Serbia, new arrivals have also ceased and as of 22 March, the total number of migrants and refugees that have entered the country remain at 90,177.

In Croatia, no new entries have been registered at the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre; thus the number of migrants and refugees registered since 1 January 2016 remains 102,275. Since it's opening in November 2015, the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre has accommodated a total of 347,152 migrants and refugees. Currently there are only 202 people hosted in the centre, all from Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan.

After the closure of the Western Balkans route, Slovenia expects the number of asylum seekers to grow. On 10 March, the government approved to relocate 567 persons from Italy and Greece and resettle 20 from third countries. The relocation of asylum seekers is expected to begin in April and continue in regular intervals (approximately every three months) for the next year and a half, while permanent resettlement of 20 Syrian refugees will conclude within the year.

Between 17-18 March, European Union (EU) leaders held a summit in Brussels to further address the migration crisis and the EU-Turkey cooperation. On 17 March, EU leaders reached a common position to present to Turkey for a joint agreement on migration, which was then accepted by Turkey on 18 March. The final agreement was issued as a joint EU-Turkey statement that agreed to end the irregular migration from Turkey to the EU. The agreement went into effect on 20 March, and as a temporary and extraordinary measure, included the return of all new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into the Greek islands back to Turkey. The full statement can be found [here](#).

## IOM RESPONSE

In order to gather and disseminate information about the migrant and refugee populations moving through the Mediterranean, up the Western Balkan Route and through the Northern Route into Europe, in September 2015, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team established a Flow Monitoring System (FMS). The FMS provides a weekly overview of migration flows in countries of first arrival and other countries along the route in Europe (including Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy), and provides an analysis of trends across the affected region. The data on registered arrivals is collated by IOM



IOM assessment visit to Idomeni © IOM Greece, 2016

## IOM RESPONSE

through consultations with ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces, and other relevant national authorities.

IOM continues to gather and process this data along the routes and border points and distributes information to relevant stakeholders, including government authorities. The information gathered is also used to inform IOM's portal that provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis, which can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

### Turkey

As of 21 March, the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) have rescued 19,817 migrants and refugees while 172 lives have been lost since the start of 2016. During the reporting period, an average of approximately 245 were rescued at sea per day.

IOM continues to support the TCG by distributing food, water, and non-food items (NFIs) to rescued migrants and refugees. During the reporting period, IOM assisted the TCG in Küçükkuyu through the provision of food, water and NFIs (including blankets, clothing and shoes) to 96 migrants and refugees who were rescued at sea. The majority of those

rescued at sea in Küçükkuyu were from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

To further support the TCG, IOM has provided staff in Çeşme to deliver NFIs and food to rescued migrants and refugees, and is planning to do the same in Dikili. Between 21-22 March, IOM provided food, water and NFIs to 273 migrants and refugees rescued by the TCG in Çeşme.

To date, IOM has provided six tarpaulin tents to help shelter rescued migrants and refugees from the winter elements at the reception areas in Küçükkuyu, Ayvalık, Dikili, Çeşme, Didim, and Bodrum. IOM is in the process of procuring additional tarpaulin tents for five more reception points in Mordoğan, Sığacık, Datça, Fethiye and Turgutreis. Additionally, IOM will provide portable bathrooms to rescued migrants and refugees in three TCG reception points in Küçükkuyu, Ayvalık and Datça. IOM also finalized the procurement of 2,000 NFIs (1,000 polar fleece clothing and 1,000 undergarments) for the TCG Aegean Regional Command to provide to those rescued at sea.

From 8-10 March, IOM in consultation with the TCG and the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), held its fifth capacity building training for 36 participants from the DGMM and TCG. Topics covered in the training include: international migration law (IML), risk assessment, IML at sea, and pre-screening and protection of vulnerable population. In addition, sessions on psychosocial first aid and personnel care for TCG and DGMM staff were provided.

### Greece

From 15 – 23 March, IOM deployed a team of experts for an assessment mission to Greece. The team conducted site visits to areas where migrants and refugees are currently stranded, including visits to informal and formal camps in the Thessaloniki and Attica regions and Lesbos Island. The team also liaised with key government and humanitarian partners, including the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Migration Policy (MMP), and UNHCR, to identify key gaps in the current response. On 23 March, IOM attended the first coordination meeting in Thessaloniki chaired by the MMP where five sectoral meetings were organized: health; WASH; protection; relocation; and, NFIs. IOM together with UNHCR will co-lead the NFI sector in the Thrace and Macedonia regions of northern Greece. The outcome of the assessment mission will help to further define IOM's response strategy in Greece and affected neighbouring countries.

To support the government, IOM has provided personnel and equipment to the First Reception Service (FRS) facilities



IOM provided warm and dry clothes to rescued migrants in Küçükkuyu © IOM Turkey, 2016

## IOM RESPONSE

### Greece (continued)

in Lesvos, Evros, and Leros. The equipment delivered to the facilities help to run the day to day operations of the FRS while personnel help to provide direct assistance to rescued migrants and refugees.



IOM provided supplies to the First Reception Service facility in Lesvos © IOM Greece, 2016

To date, IOM has provided humanitarian relocation services to a total of 574 refugees who were relocated to other EU Member States as part of the EU relocation programme. IOM implements this service in cooperation with the Asylum Service who is responsible for the selection procedure. IOM prepares the movements for the selected beneficiaries and delivers cultural orientation sessions. IOM also provides pre-departure medical examinations and escorts to final destinations, as necessary.

Through the assisted voluntary return programme, IOM provides support and services to stranded 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 and reintegration; pre-departure assistance; transit and reception assistance; small reinstatement cash grants prior to departure; and, for a limited number of returnees, reintegration support in their country of origin. From 1

January to 23 March, IOM has assisted 1,534 migrants return to their country of origin, the majority of whom were returning to Morocco (946) and Iran (237).

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

IOM has procured a medical vehicle fully equipped with all necessary equipment that is used to transport migrants and refugees from reception centres to medical institutions to provide further medical interventions as needed. Additionally, IOM has provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy with two vehicles to transport vulnerable groups of migrants and refugees.

IOM has completed the installation of 26 sleeping containers at the transit reception centre in Gevgelija to meet the needs of migrants and refugees at this centre. The containers are fully equipped with beds, linens, pillows, and blankets.



IOM sleeping containers in Gevgelija help to accommodate disabled populations © IOM Skopje, 2016

### Serbia

IOM teams continue to present at the southern border to assist border police at the entry point in Miratovac with flow monitoring. In Presevo, Šid, and Dimitrovgrad, IOM is providing migrants with information on the possibility of assisted voluntary return (AVR) services. IOM assisted with the referral of 42 migrants to the AVR procedure and additionally provided 8 migrants with return transport assistance to their countries of origin (Morocco, Iran and Bangladesh).

## IOM RESPONSE

### Croatia

Since the opening of the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre, IOM's DTM team has been present and consistently collecting data. The team currently has 10 data collectors and a mobility tracking assistant. As of 22 March, the DTM team has reported 3,501 successfully completed questionnaires from the Opatovac and Slavonski Brod reception transit centres. Input and data from the questionnaires are analysed and summarized in a weekly report that is then further disseminated to interested partners and stakeholders.

At the Slavonski Brod centre, migrants from Iraq and Afghanistan celebrated the New Year with the support of IOM and other humanitarian agencies. IOM promoted community work, provided crockery and decorations, and helped to develop the programme of the celebration.



Celebration of the New Year at the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre © IOM Croatia, 2016

### Italy

During boat landings and at the reception centres, IOM continues to provide support to authorities in detecting vulnerable cases. IOM has two anti-trafficking teams in Sicily and Apulia with the specific aim of enhancing detection and identification of victims of trafficking. IOM helps to identify vulnerable cases (including Victims of Trafficking and unaccompanied children) both at landing points and at the reception centres. IOM continues to contribute in the identification of vulnerable migrants and refers them to the relevant authorities for further assistance. 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 services, and the elderly.

### Niger

During the reporting period, 992 new migrants requesting voluntary return were registered at the IOM transit centres. Additionally, IOM delivered assistance to 1,228 migrants with shelter, food, medical and psychosocial support assistance, while 105 migrants were provided with return assistance to their countries of origin.

From 15-16 March, IOM conducted a counter-trafficking training for 25 border post agents in Agadez. The training was organised by the National Agency Against Human Trafficking (NAHT) and IOM under the umbrella of IOM's continued support to the NAHT agency.



Border post agents hold up their certificates after completing a counter-trafficking training © IOM Niger, 2016

For the weekly flow monitoring surveys, IOM mobile teams are deployed to the monitoring points in Arlit and Seguedine to collect data on migrant movements and profiles. The flow monitoring analysis released for March 2016 noted 3,352 migrants passing through Seguedine where 73 per cent (2,447) were outgoing migrants and the remaining 26 per cent (905) were incoming. 95 per cent of the outgoing migrants who were interviewed stated they were migrating for economic reasons and five per cent stated they were seeking improved access to services. 85 per cent of the migrants revealed that Libya was their final destination while the remaining 15 per cent were looking to reach Europe. The full FMR (in English and French) for Niger can be found [here](#).

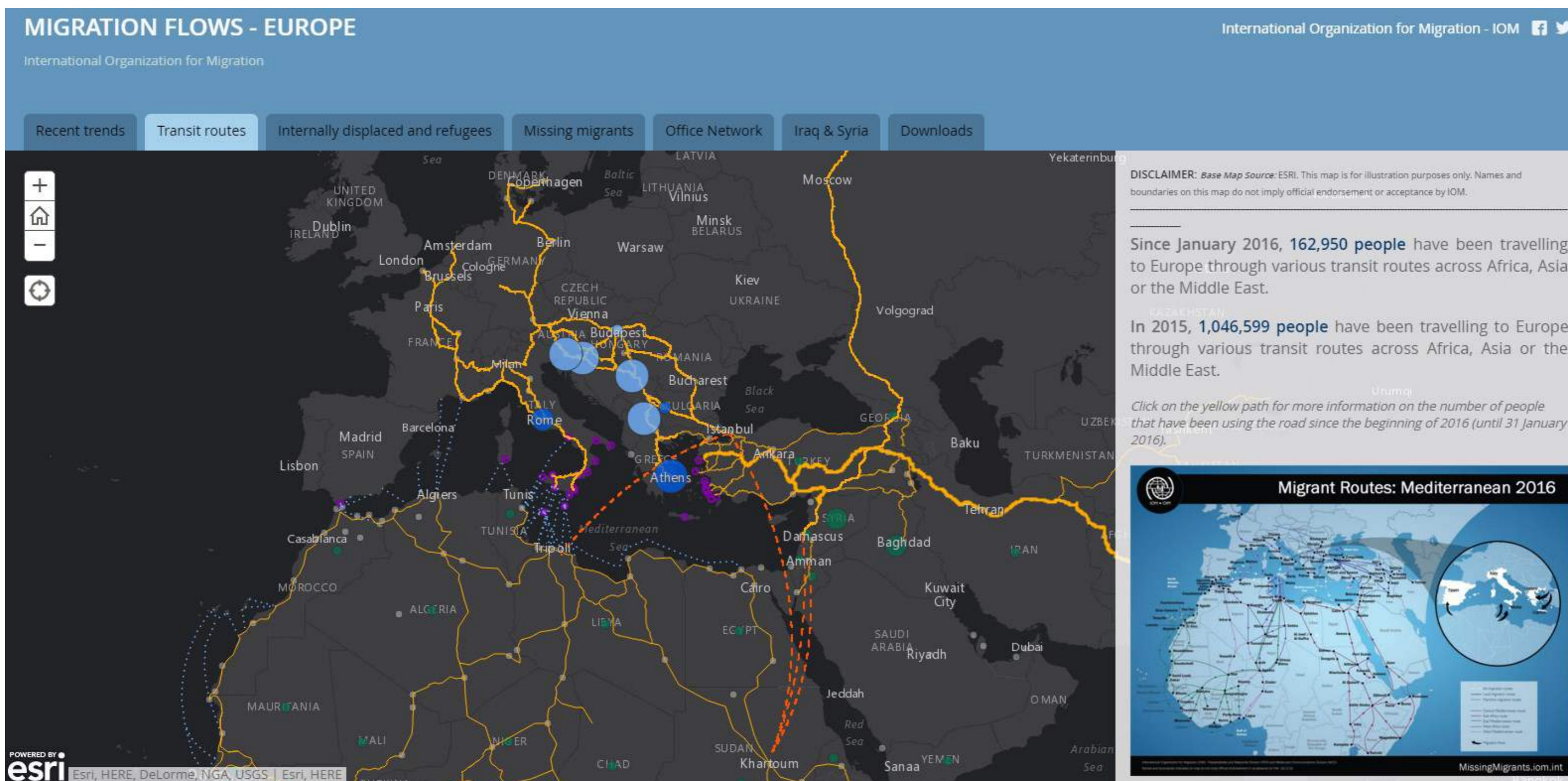
# Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

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 9—22 March

Country	Greece	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Slovenia	Hungary	Italy
Registered Arrivals	13,300	0	0	3	0	1,337	4,400
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (24th February—8th March)	Decrease of 36%	Decrease of 100%	Decrease of 100%	Decrease of 100%	Decrease of 100%	Decrease of 7%	Increase of 471%



# Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

## Movement Trends and Numbers

### ARRIVALS (since 1 January 2016)

**Italy** 13,777

Estimate arrivals by sea as of 22 March  
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

**Greece** 148,781

Estimate arrivals by sea as of 22 March  
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

**Former Yugoslav  
Republic of Macedonia** 89,623

People registered as of 22 March  
Source: Government

**Serbia** 90,177

Estimate arrivals as of 22 March  
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

**Croatia** 102,275

Estimate arrivals as of 22 March  
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

**Slovenia** 99,179

Initial estimate as of 22 March  
Source: Government

**Hungary** 3,944

Estimate arrivals as of 22 March  
Source: Government

**Bulgaria** 1,390

Estimate arrivals as of 22 March  
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.

[www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

Information available as of 24 March 2016  
sources: IOM • feedback: [prd@iom.int](mailto:prd@iom.int)

