



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 25 February 2016



Migrants and refugees who have just arrived on the Greek island of Lesbos © IOM Italy, 2016

Highlights

■ In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, IOM has installed 14 out of a planned 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.

■ Between 1 January and 23 February 2016, IOM legal teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, together with its partners, assisted with more than 25 boat landings and provided legal counselling to approximately 95% of the migrants arrived by sea.

■ In Turkey, to help improve the reception conditions for those rescued at sea, IOM, to date, has provided 5,000 blankets, six tarpaulin tents (to help shelter rescued migrants and refugees from the winter elements at reception areas), 14 heaters, 340 plastic chairs (used at the reception areas inside the tents), clothing, and food and water at six reception points (Küçükkuyu, Ayvalık, Dikili, Çeşme, Didim, and Bodrum).

■ IOM has provided humanitarian relocation services to a total of 295 refugees in Greece who were relocated to other EU Member States as part of the EU relocation programme.

■ As of 23 February, the DTM team in Croatia has reported more than 2,750 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.

■ IOM provided transport assistance to 760 returning Nigeriens so that they could return to their home regions. Additionally, IOM provided 15 third-country nationals with transport assistance back to their home country: 8 to Cameroon; five to Senegal; one to Burkina Faso; and, one to Bissau Guinea.

CONTACTS:

Preparedness and Response Division

✉ prd@iom.int

Donor Relations Division

✉ drd@iom.int

☎ +41.22.7179.271

🌐 <http://www.iom.int>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 24 February 2016, 121,051 migrants and refugees have arrived to Europe by land and sea routes since the start of 2016. The vast majority of this number arrived by sea to Greece (111,099) and by Italy (8,592).

Between 1-21 February, the Hellenic Coast Guard estimated that 35,132 migrants and refugees arrived into Greece by sea, with the majority coming from Syria (48 per cent), Afghanistan (25 per cent) and Iraq (17 per cent). As of 22 February, the HCG has rescued a total of 2,518 migrants and refugees since the start of the year.

During the reporting period, approximately 1,017 migrants and refugees crossed into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As of 24 February, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has registered a total 87,036 migrants and refugees since 1 January 2016, with the majority coming from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Between 1 January – 23 February, a total of 87,562 migrants and refugees have been registered in Serbia. During the reporting period the average number of arrivals was 1,128 per day, lower than the previous reporting period (1,485) due to bad weather conditions on the Aegean Sea.

As of 24 February, a total of 98,752 migrants and refugees have arrived in Croatia since the start of the year. During the reporting period, 18,354 migrants and refugees were registered, with an average of 1,311 per day. Since its opening in November 2015, the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre has accommodated more than 343,009 migrants and refugees.

Between 9 – 23 February, the number of migrants and refugees entering into Slovenia started to decrease showing a daily average of 1,347 persons (a decrease from the prior reporting period of 1,851). Austria has limited the number of people who enter their borders to 3,200 per day. On 19 February, Austria's Minister of Interior stated that they will accept a maximum of 80 asylum applications per day at their southern border with Slovenia. As of 24 February, Slovenia has registered a total of 95,744 migrants and refugees.

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

component of the DTM Flow Monitoring System that allows regular and timely sharing of information between countries about migrant flows. 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>.

In addition to providing data on migrant flows, the flow monitoring system also helps inform the type of assistance needed and identifies the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees. IOM continues to work with NGOs, other international organizations and local authorities on migration management, identification of vulnerable cases and referrals to relevant authorities. The information provided through this network allows partners to plan more informed responses and provides essential support to migrants in key locations.



IOM conducting DTM surveys at the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre © IOM Croatia, 2016

Turkey

As of 23 February, the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) have rescued 12,057 migrants and refugees since the start of 2016. On average approximately 170 people are arriving per day.

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey (continued)

IOM continues to support the TCG by distributing food, water, and non-food items (NFIs) to rescued migrants and refugees. To help improve the reception conditions for those rescued at sea, IOM, to date, has provided 5,000 blankets, six tarpaulin tents (to help shelter rescued migrants and refugees from the winter elements at reception areas), 14 heaters, 340 plastic chairs (used at the reception areas inside the tents), clothing, and food and water at six reception points (Küçükkyu, Ayvalık, Dikili, Çeşme, Didim, and Bodrum). Additionally, IOM is preparing to provide the TCG with 5,000 hygiene kits to be distributed to rescued migrants and refugees at the six reception points.



During the reporting period, IOM assisted the TCG in Küçükkyu by distributing food, water and NFIs to 386 migrants and refugees who were rescued by the TCG.

Greece

IOM has helped to enhance the reception assistance at the First Reception Centres in Lesvos, Evros and Leros through personnel who provide direct assistance to newly rescued migrants and refugees, and through the provision of equipment, including office and cleaning supplies, washing machines, kitchen equipment, and non-food items.



To date, IOM has provided humanitarian relocation services to a total of 295 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.

From 1 January to 22 February, IOM has assisted 974 migrants return to their country of origin. The majority of these returns were to Morocco (725) and Iran (89). During the reporting period, IOM also provided assistance to and escorted 15 unaccompanied minors to their country of origin, the majority of whom were Iranian nationals.

IOM RESPONSE

Greece (continued)

Additionally, IOM conducted visits to open centres hosting migrants in and around Athens to inform migrants of the assisted voluntary return (AVR) service, counsel them on the procedure, and register those who wished to receive AVR. IOM also distributed information flyers on AVR in the regions of Ioannina, Corinth, Crete and Thessaloniki.



IOM providing pre-departure information to Moroccan nationals before they head back to their country © IOM Greece, 2016

IOM continues to be present on the islands of Lesvos, Samos, Kos, Leros, Chios, and Crete and works closely with authorities (Frontex, the HCG, and the First Reception Service) to identify vulnerable migrants and refugees, including unaccompanied and/or separated children, the elderly, and those with medical needs. Vulnerable populations are referred to the relevant authorities in order to be provided with the necessary care and assistance.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

IOM continues to support the government's registration process through the deployment of 12 data entry clerks at the transit reception centre in Gevgelija. From 19 June 2015 to 23 February 2016, IOM's registration teams, together

with the Border Police and the NGO Young Lawyers Association have registered a total of 474,079 migrants and refugees. 51 per cent are male, 18 per cent are female, 27 per cent are children, and 4 per cent are unaccompanied and/or separated children.



IOM providing information to vulnerable groups in Kumanovo © IOM Skopje, 2016

IOM has installed 14 out of a planned 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.

Additionally, IOM has helped to improve the hygienic conditions at the Tabanovce Centre through the installation of two containers with showers for migrants and refugees.

Serbia

As part of the Early Warning Information Sharing Network, IOM teams are 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 is providing migrants and refugees with necessary information and referrals to the registration centre in Presevo.

IOM RESPONSE

Serbia (continued)

IOM continues to support authorities with the registration process at the Presevo registration centre and assists approximately 1,000 migrants and refugees per day with filling in the arrival questionnaire.

For vulnerable families and individuals, IOM provides transportation assistance from the Miratovac transit centre to the Presevo registration centre. Up to 600 vulnerable migrants and refugees are provided with this transport assistance per day.

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 23 February, the DTM team has reported more than 2,750 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.



As of 27 December 2015, IOM has established a permanent and 24 hour presence at the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre and assists migrants and refugees with basic information about the centre, the registration process and available services. IOM interpreters are available upon request to support the migrants and refugees. The interpreters also assist during medical interventions at the centre's infirmary and/or local hospitals.



The 20 heated containers procured by IOM have all been installed and continue to be operational at the Slavonski Brod centre. The containers installed in Sectors 3 and 4 of the centre are regularly used to accommodate vulnerable migrants and refugees as they arrive.

Italy

On 17 February, two boat landings happened off the coasts of Sicily, where a total of 363 migrants were rescued in Pozzallo and 101 migrants rescued in Lampedusa. On 22 February, multiple boat landings took place in Messina, Augusta, and Lampedusa, with a total of 940 migrants rescued. Two migrants who landed in Messina informed IOM they had departed two days prior from Khoms, Libya. On 23 February, an additional 207 migrants were rescued in Pozzallo.

IOM RESPONSE

Italy (continued)

Between 1 January and 23 February 2016, IOM legal teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, together with its partners, assisted with more than 25 boat landings and provided legal counselling to approximately 95% of the migrants arrived by sea. The legal teams inform migrants of Italian rules and procedures, on the risks of irregular migration, and monitor the assistance procedures carried out in the reception centres to ensure that migrants are given their fundamental rights.

IOM continues to have two anti-trafficking teams in Sicily and Apulia with the specific aim of enhancing detection and identification of victims of trafficking (VoTs). IOM supports the authorities in detecting vulnerable cases (including VoTs 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, 831 migrants were registered at the transit centres (760 returning Nigeriens from Algeria and 71 third-country nationals). IOM provided transport assistance to the 760 returning Nigeriens so that they could return to their home regions. Additionally, IOM provided 15 third-country nationals with transport assistance back to their home country: 8 to Cameroon; five to Senegal; one to Burkina Faso; and, one to Bissau Guinea.

For the weekly flow monitoring report (FMR), IOM mobile teams are deployed to the monitoring points in Arlit and Seguedine to collect data on migrant movements and profiles. Between 15 – 23 February, the main nationalities present on the convoys departing Niger were Nigeriens, Nigerians, and Senegalese, while the main nationalities coming into Niger were Nigeriens. The FMR highlight that there is significant misinformation among migrants about the dangers and difficulties faced during the journey, not only to Mediterranean areas (for those intending to cross over to Europe), but also the time and effort it takes to cross the Saharan section to Libya with its extreme climatic challenges, the dangers currently present in Libya, and the vulnerabilities and exploitations migrants may face in the hands of smugglers and traffickers. The full weekly FMR for Niger can be found at http://doe.iom.int/docs/NIGER_IOM_FMP_EN_report_15-23Feb2016.pdf.



Repatriated Nigerien women awaits registration at the IOM Agadez transit centre © IOM Niger, 2016

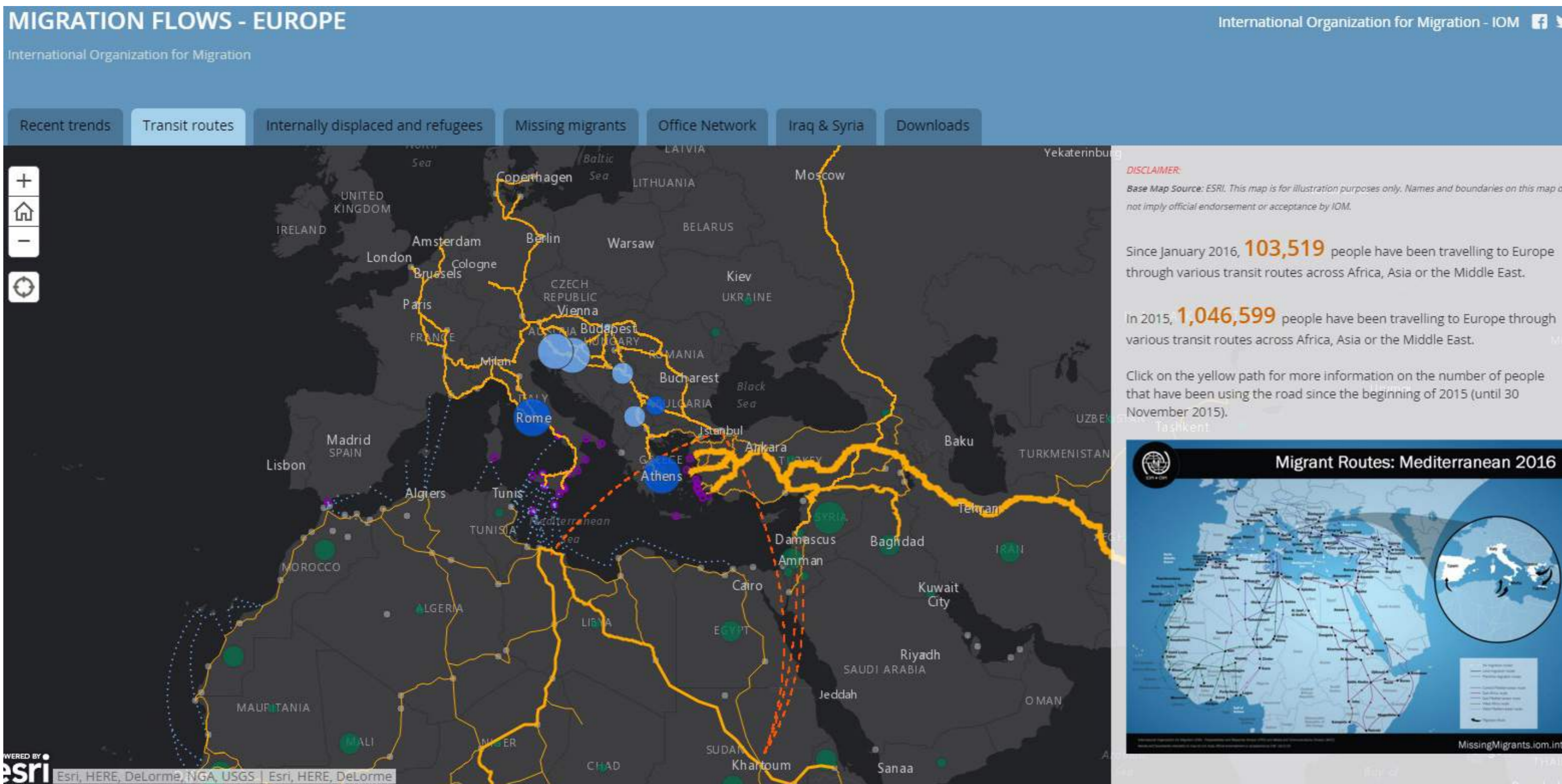
Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

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 10 February and 23 February

Country	Greece	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Slovenia	Hungary	Italy
Registered Arrivals	25,420	11,772	11,623	13,537	13,415	1,245	1,816
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (13th January—26th January)	Decrease of 12%	Decrease of 58%	Decrease of 58%	Decrease of 58%	Decrease of 58%	Increase of 72%	Decrease of 55%



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

Movement Trends and Numbers

ARRIVALS (since 1 January 2016)

Italy 8,592

Estimate arrivals by sea as of 24 February
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

Greece 111,099

Estimate arrivals by sea as of 24 February
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 87,036

People registered between up to 24 February
Source: Government

Serbia 87,704

Estimate arrivals as of 24 February
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

Croatia 98,752

Estimate arrivals as of 24 February
Source: Government plus IOM estimates

Slovenia 95,744

Initial estimate as of 24 February
Source: Government

Hungary 2,476

Estimate arrivals as of 24 February
Source: Government

Bulgaria 821

Estimate arrivals as of 18 February
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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Information available as of 25 February 2016
sources: IOM • feedback: prd@iom.int

