



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 15 October 2015



IOM staff providing information to new arrivals in Idomeni © IOM Greece, 2015

Highlights

■ In order to increase the Centre for Crisis Management's preparedness and response capacity in the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, IOM will be providing the staff with **trainings on camp coordination and management**, as well as **migration crisis management** to ensure that appropriate and timely assistance and protection are provided to migrants and refugees.

■ Since 1 September, the IOM team in **Serbia** has provided transport assistance to approximately **18,000 vulnerable families and individuals**.

■ IOM is providing **direct relief assistance** to new arrivals at the entry points in **Greece**, including the provision of blankets, clothes, shoes and bottled water.

■ In coordination with **Croatia's** Ministry of the Interior, IOM has procured **20 containers** to host the most vulnerable migrants and refugees during their stay at the Opatovac Transit Centre.

■ As of 12 October 2015, IOM, together with its partners and through its legal roving teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, has assisted with more than **380 landings** and has provided **assistance and legal counselling** to an estimated 95% of the migrants and asylum-seekers arriving by sea in Italy.

■ During the reporting period, IOM organized a **field visit in Turkey to Ayvalık and Küçükuyu** for a delegation that included representatives from the EU and UNHCR.

■ To date, IOM has **supported more than 1,000 rescued migrants** in **Libya** with direct assistance, including the provision of food and non-food items such as hygiene kits.

■ In **Niger**, IOM has **supported the reception of 900 returning migrants** from Algeria, including 222 women and 426 minors (including 13 who were unaccompanied). All 900 returnees have been transported to their villages of origin.

■ Based on **IOM's online platform** found at <http://migration.iom.int/europe>, **606,536** people have travelled to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East, by land, sea or plan as of 15 October.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 14 October, an estimated total of **606,348** arrivals by sea have been reported, with **Italy (137,313)** and **Greece (466,111)** receiving the majority of the numbers since the start of the year.

In **Greece**, the Hellenic Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction announced that the total official arrivals from land and sea borders between January to September is **422,113**, out of which, 393,554 crossed through the “blue border”. IOM estimates that between 1-13 October, 72,557 migrants and refugees crossed into the country by sea, with 71% (30,116) crossing through the island of Lesbos. IOM staff on the Greek islands have recorded a sharp increase in the number of daily arrivals compared to numbers collected at the end of September. Between 5-12 October, daily arrivals reached **7,000 persons**.

As of 10 October, a total of **130,727** migrants and refugees have entered the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The numbers crossing the border and entering into Gevgelija continue to be estimated at 5,000 arrivals a day. According



Young migrant waiting to depart the transit centre in Gevgelija
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to the Ministry of Interior, the majority of migrants and refugees originate from Syria (71%), followed by Afghanistan (15%), Iraq (6%), and Pakistan (3%).

In **Serbia**, approximately 4,000 migrants and refugees arrive daily with the total number of registered persons reaching **195,000**. Due to rain, the conditions in the transit camp in Miratovac and in the reception centre in Presevo remain challenging. Preparations to provide assistance during the winter season have started but additional resources are required.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, a total of **174,960** migrants and refugees have entered into **Croatia** from 16 September to 14 October, with numbers peaking between 8-10 October. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Health reported more than 570 medical interventions in the Opatovac Transit Centre and at the Bapska border crossing point. To date, a total of **10,542 medical examinations** have taken place, with 40 patients admitted to the hospital. Health problems are mainly related to exhaustion caused by the long journey, and according to MSF, the most frequent issues are respiratory problems and joint pains.

As of 14 October, over **137,313** migrants have arrived in **Italy** by sea, with approximately 3,800 migrants arriving between 5-12 October. On 9 October, the first relocation operation took place when a group of 19 Eritreans were transferred from Lampedusa to Rome and then to Lulea, Sweden.

As of the end of September, IOM estimates that **over 100,000** migrants have transited through Niger since the start of the year to reach Algeria, Libya or Europe. The migration flow from West Africa continues at the same pace, with approximately 2,000 - 2,500 migrants per week. The top five nationalities coming into the country include those from **Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, and Guinea Bissau**. IOM data from the transit centres in the Agadez region reveal that as of 10 October, **7,000 migrants have returned to Niger** from Libya and Algeria.

IOM has developed an **online platform** (<http://migration.iom.int/europe>) to display and evaluate the complex migration flows from Africa and the Middle East to Europe.

The platform includes several key features, among them a **review of data** on newly arrived migrants and **humanitarian needs** in migrants’ countries of origin, **maps of the land, air and sea routes** most frequently travelled by those undertaking the journey to Europe from Africa, and a **global map of displacement**, including information on the size of internally displaced and refugee populations by country, drivers of displacement and the size of migration flows from African countries to Europe. As of 15 October, **606,536** people have travelled to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East, by land, sea or plan.

IOM RESPONSE

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

As the majority (86%) of migrants and refugees entering into the country are from Syria and Afghanistan, a need for interpreters has emerged. To fill this gap, IOM in close cooperation with the relevant institutions will provide a **mobile team of interpreters** to assist border police and social service providers in communicating with migrants and refugees in their respective languages.

With the approach of the winter season, IOM will be supporting the Government through the **provision of containers** that will provide temporary shelter at reception points for migrants and refugees awaiting registration.

In order to increase the Centre for Crisis Management's preparedness and response capacity, IOM will be providing the staff with **trainings on camp coordination and management**, as well as **migration crisis management** to ensure that appropriate and timely assistance and protection are provided to migrants and refugees.

Serbia

IOM continues to work with relevant authorities in the country in **managing and responding to the migrant and refugee flows** at the border crossings and transit/reception



Under heavy rain, IOM provides transfer of vulnerable families and individuals from Miratovac to Presevo
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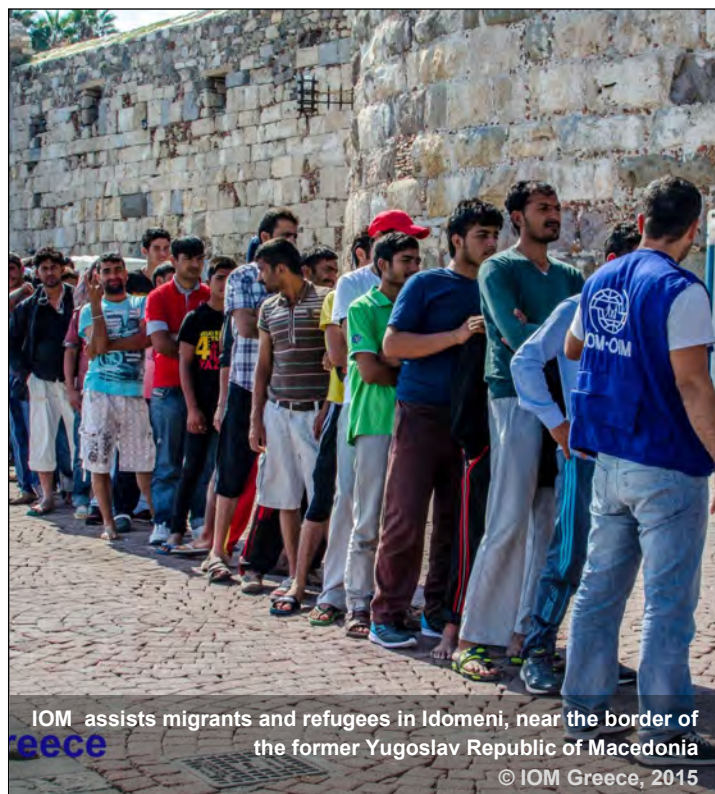
centres. The IOM team deployed to the southern border is assisting the Border Police at the entry point in Miratovac

with **flow monitoring**. IOM is also providing necessary information to arriving migrants and refugees on the procedures and services available to them and referring them to the registration centre in Presevo.

The IOM team in Miratovac provides vulnerable families and individuals with **transport assistance** from the border crossing to the registration centre in Presevo. On average, approximately 600-700 people per day are transported by IOM. Since 1 September, approximately **18,000 people have been assisted** through this service. When necessary and in close coordination with the Border Police and local railway staff, IOM also organizes the train transfer of migrants and refugees from the "green border" to Presevo, which is roughly 6km away.

Greece

To ensure that Greek authorities are aware of the nature, composition and scale of the migrant and refugee flows, IOM staff continue to **collect data** on the number of daily



IOM assists migrants and refugees in Idomeni, near the border of Greece
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arrivals on the Greek islands as well as data on daily crossings from Greece to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

IOM offers **emergency services in Samos and Lesbos islands**, the two main entry points for migrants and refugees, as part of two mobile units for the First Reception Service. IOM is also providing **direct relief assistance** to new arrivals at the entry points, including the provision of blankets, clothes, shoes and bottled water.

IOM RESPONSE

Croatia

IOM has established a **permanent presence at the Opatovac** transit site where all migrants and refugees transit before being transported toward the Hungarian border. IOM has started implementing the **mobility tracking matrix** flow monitoring survey in the transit centre to collect data on countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants and refugees, as well as the routes taken in-between.

The flow monitoring survey will be conducted on a daily basis for the next few weeks before data analysis is carried out. IOM is continuing to recruit **data collectors and interpreters** who speak Arabic and Urdu, and has also facilitated the **translation of registration forms**, provided by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI), into Pashto, Urdu and Somali.

In coordination with the MOI, IOM has procured 20 **containers to host** the most vulnerable migrants and refugees during their stay at the Opatovac Transit Centre. The delivery of the first set of containers is planned for 19 October. The MOI will ensure the transportation, installation and maintenance of the containers.

In an effort to improve coordination, discussions are ongoing with the Croatian Red Cross to agree on a partnership modality that would improve **management of non-food item** distribution. The agreement would promote the use of standardized items and packages developed by the Croatian Red Cross. Additionally, IOM and the Croatian Red Cross are looking to combine their pool of translators and interpreters.

Italy

IOM has teams in Lampedusa, Sicily, Calabria, and Apulia that are composed of field officers and interpreter/cultural mediators who meet with migrants and asylum-seekers at landing points and in reception centres to support them with **legal counselling and assistance**. IOM assistance includes **referral of vulnerable cases**, such as victims of trafficking, medical cases and unaccompanied children, as well as **family reunification** activities for those who were separated during rescues operations.

As of 12 October, IOM, together with its partners and

through its legal roving teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, has assisted with more than **380 landings** and has provided **assistance and legal counselling** to an estimated 95% of the



IOM cultural mediator provides information to arrivals at a landing point in Sicily
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migrants and asylum-seekers arriving by sea. IOM informs the arrivals of Italian migration rules and procedures, on the risks of irregular migration, and **monitors the assistance procedures** carried out in the reception centres to ensure that migrants' rights are respected and needs are met.

IOM continues to contribute in the **identification of vulnerable migrants** and provides referral to the relevant authorities. Vulnerable migrants often include unaccompanied minors who were mistakenly identified as adults during the disembarkation procedures, witnesses in legal proceedings against smugglers, and those in need of health and psychosocial assistance, and the elderly.

Turkey

During the reporting period, IOM organized a **field visit to Ayvalık and Küçükkuyu** for a delegation that included representatives from the EU and UNHCR. The purpose was to discuss the current migration situation through the Aegean Sea, the process followed after disembarkation, and the most urgent operational requirements of the Coast Guard Command. IOM and the delegation also monitored the disembarkation of a group of 80 rescued migrants (including many children and women) during the field visit at Küçükkuyu.

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey (continued)

As of 11 October, the total number of migrants rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard in 2015 totalled **64,298**, with more than



Disembarkation of women and children rescued at sea in Küçükuyu
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57,888 of these rescued at the Aegean Sea. The most urgent needs of the Coast Guard include protective dress, blankets, food, drinks, milk, mobile toilets and baths, hygienic materials and transfer vehicles.

Libya

In response to the high numbers of migrants and refugees being rescued at sea by the Libyan Naval Coast Guards, IOM, through implementing partners in the country, have **distributed hygiene kits** and organized **health assistance**, including psychosocial support and medicine to those suffering from injuries. To date, IOM has **supported more than 1,000 rescued migrants** with direct assistance, including the provision of food and non-food items such as hygiene kits. The majority of those rescued at sea are transferred to Salah Aldeen migrant retention centre, which accommodates up to 1,100 people.

IOM has further provided **repatriation assistance** to 42 migrants from different countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. The movement of 25 Bangladeshi migrants was carried out in close coordination with their embassy. The 25 migrants were rescued in August

by the Libyan Coast Guard when their vessel started to sink and resulted in the deaths of 24 Bangladeshi nationals off the coast of Libya.

IOM works on raising awareness to **combat human trafficking** in Libya, particularly in the migrant retention centres, and continues to provide assistance to victims of trafficking who are found in the centres. A significant number of female migrants from sub-Saharan and eastern Africa who have been trafficked into Libya, find themselves with few alternatives except to get on a boat crossing the Mediterranean as a means to reach Europe.

IOM continues to plan **capacity building trainings** for partners on the ground, including local NGOs and civil society organizations. To date, IOM has organized nine capacity building trainings and three training courses on emergency and humanitarian response for Libyan NGO representatives.

Niger

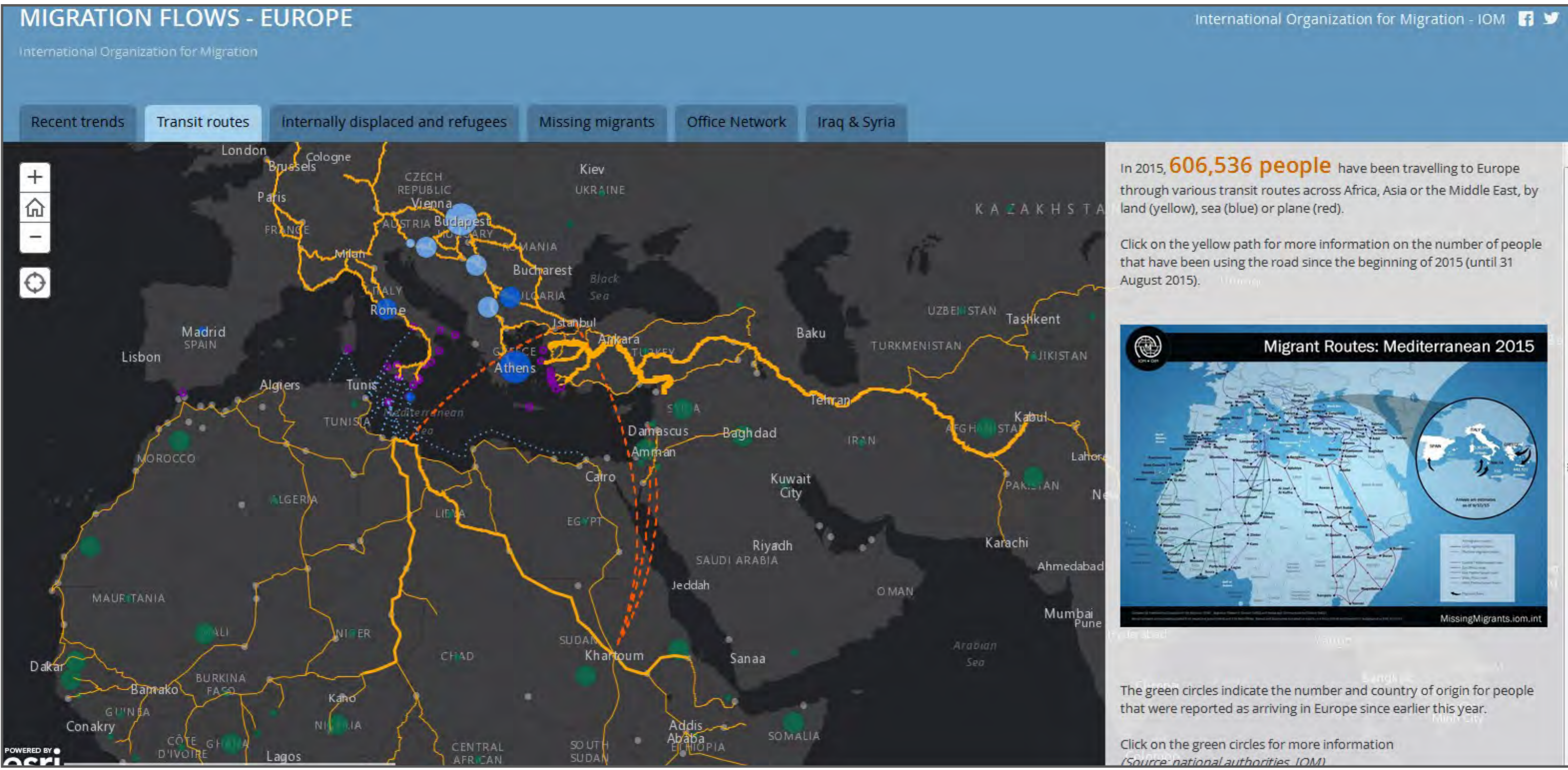
Reception assistance has started in Agadez as well as in the Zinder region, which is the final destination for the majority of returning migrants. IOM has **supported the reception of 900 returning migrants** from Algeria, including 222 women and 426 minors (including 13 who were unaccompanied). All 900 returnees have been transported to their villages of origin.

It is highly likely that many women and children returning from Algeria are victims of trafficking and/or smuggling; thus, IOM is coordinating with the Ministry of Justice to provide them with the necessary **follow-up assistance** including **psychological support** and **socio-economic reintegration**. For unaccompanied minors returning from Algeria, IOM is working with UNICEF, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services and local authorities in Agadez and Zinder to conduct **family tracing services** before returning them to their villages of origin. IOM has also provided 50 migrants with **assisted voluntary return** to their countries of origin in West Africa.

IOM has begun the preparatory work to **monitor the migrant flow** in the Agadez region. Questionnaires and monitoring tools are being developed and a team of three data collectors will be deployed to Seguidine for up to two weeks. Seguidine is the main transit point before Madama, the last checkpoint in Niger before entering Libya.

Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

As part of its overall response to Europe’s migration emergency, IOM has developed an online platform to display and evaluate the complex migration flows from Africa and the Middle East to Europe. The multi-layered platform can be found at <http://migration.iom.int/europe> and displays data on a number of critical components necessary to understanding the scale, scope and patterns of current migration dynamics in Europe.



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

Movement Trends and Numbers

ARRIVALS

Italy **137,313**

Estimate arrivals as of 14 October
Source: IOM

Greece **466,111**

Estimate arrivals from land and sea
as of 14 October
Source: IOM

Macedonia **130,727**

People registered as of 10 October
Source: Government

Reports from the field indicate that the number of people registered represents approximately 50% of the migrants entering Macedonia

Croatia **174,960**

Estimate arrivals as of 14 October
Source: Government

Serbia **195,000**

People registered as of 12 October
Source: Government


Hungary **357,719**

Estimate arrivals as of 11 October
Source: Government

Spain **2,819**

Estimate arrivals as of 14 October
Source: IOM

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 15 October 2015
sources: IOM • feedback: prd@iom.int

