



# EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 22 October 2015



## Highlights

IOM monitored the relocation of 68 asylum seekers in Italy to Sweden and Finland © IOM Rome, 2015

■ On 18 October, IOM in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior, marked the EU **Anti-Trafficking Day** in the transit centre in **Gevgelija** by raising awareness of the danger and forms of human trafficking along the migration routes.

■ Since 1 September, IOM has provided approximately **20,000 vulnerable individuals** coming in to **Serbia** with transport assistance from the border to the registration centre in Presevo.

■ In **Greece**, the additional facilities provided by IOM at the emergency camp in Idomeni will **expand the capacity** of the camp, allowing for an additional 800 people to be hosted.

■ On 21 October, IOM staff **monitored the relocation** of 68 asylum seekers who were in **Italy** and being moved to Sweden and Finland under the EU relocation programme. Of this total, two Syrian families (19 people) were relocated to Lulea, Sweden and 49 Eritreans were relocated to Tornio, Finland, where their asylum cases will be processed in the respective countries.

■ During the reporting period, 36 migrants were hosted in the Agadez centre in **Niger** upon their return from Libya. IOM, in collaboration with the French Red Cross and the Nigerien Red Cross, have provided **accommodation, food, water and medical screenings** to the migrants.

■ In **Croatia**, an IOM **data collector** and a displacement tracking matrix assistant are present in Opatovac. The **recruitment of several** Arabic and Urdu **interpreters** as well as additional data collectors is ongoing. IOM has additionally deployed two senior staff to support with procurement and resource management.

■ **670,685** people have travelled to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East, by land, sea or plane as of 22 October. See **IOM's online platform** for more details (<http://migration.iom.int/europe>).

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# SITUATION OVERVIEW

An estimated total of **658,127** arrivals by sea have been reported as of 21 October, with **Italy (139,299)** and **Greece (514,878)** receiving the majority of the numbers since the start of the year.

In **Greece**, more than 27,200 migrants and refugees entered the country between 16-18 October, averaging over 9,000 per day and bringing the total number of arrivals to **514,878**. The majority of these numbers crossed through the islands of Lesbos (16,448), Chios (4,400) and Samos (4,069). During the reporting period, 25 deaths were recorded in the Aegean Sea, and with the worsening of weather conditions, more fatalities are expected by the Hellenic Coast Guard.

As of 19 October, a total of **155,739** migrants and refugees have entered the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The numbers crossing the border and entering into Gevgelija continue to be high with estimated daily arrivals now at 6,000.



Distribution of warm clothes at the transit centre in Gevgelija  
© IOM Skopje, 2015

Authorities in **Serbia** are struggling with a growing backlog of migrants and refugees after Hungary sealed off its southern border and Slovenia attempted to impose a limit of daily entries. On 19 October, Croatia opened its border with Serbia, which removed one of the bottlenecks for thousands of people trying to make their way northwest.

As of 19 October, the total number of registrations have reached **246,336** in Serbia.

Based on reports provided by the Hungarian Police, the number of people who have reached **Hungary** is now at **390,705** as of 19 October. A fence has been built along the Hungarian-Serbian border and by 17 October, Hungary completed another fence along the Croatian border. Due to a migratory route shift towards Slovenia, Hungary has been registering lower number of arrivals during this reporting period.

With the recent closure of the Hungarian/Croatian border, **Slovenia** has witnessed an increase in the number of migrants and refugees arriving. Between 17-20 October, **18,469** people arrived in Slovenia. The Ministry of Interior, along with NGOs and humanitarian organizations, are hosting arrivals in several accommodation and reception centres.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, a total of **217,538** migrants and refugees have entered into **Croatia** from 16 September to 21 October, with approximately 6,500 arrivals per day. The main known entry points from Serbia are at Bapska (more than 95% of arrivals) and Tovarnik (less than 5% enter through this crossing point).

During the reporting period, Croatia's Ministry of Health reported more than 1,200 medical interventions in the Opatovac Transit Centre and at the Bapska border crossing point. To date, a total of **12,278 medical examinations** have taken place, with 285 patients admitted to the hospital. Health problems are mainly related to exhaustion caused by the long journey, and the most frequently reported issues are related to respiratory problems and joint pains.

As of 21 October, over **139,194** migrants have arrived in **Italy** by sea. Between 17 – 19 October, a total of 1,779 migrants and asylum-seekers were rescued at sea by the Italian Navy, the coastguard unit, and MSF.

According to IOM's **online platform**, <http://migration.iom.int/europe>, which displays data on a number of critical components necessary to understanding the scale, scope and patterns of current migration dynamics in Europe, **670,685** people have travelled to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East, by land, sea or plane as of 22 October.

## IOM RESPONSE

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, IOM, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental institutions, has been working in the area of counter-trafficking since 2002. As part of its work in this area, IOM carries out different preventative and capacity-building activities, as well as provision of multi-layered assistance to victims of trafficking. On 18 October, IOM in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior (MOI), marked the EU **Anti-Trafficking Day** in the transit centre in Gevgelija by raising awareness of the danger and forms of human trafficking along the migration routes. IOM staff and officials from the MOI also **provided warm clothing** in preparation for the winter season. The Anti-Trafficking Day was launched through a media statement by the MOI State Secretary and IOM Skopje's Head of Office at the transit centre in Gevgelija.

IOM will be **providing trainings on border management** to the Border Police, which will serve to increase their preparedness to respond to the migration flows. The trainings are a critical element in ensuring that officials are prepared to give appropriate and timely assistance to incoming migrants and refugees.

### Serbia

The IOM team deployed to Miratovic is assisting vulnerable families and individuals through the **provision of transportation** from the border crossing to the registration centre in Presevo, and continues to assist on average 600-700 people per day. Since 1 September, approximately **20,000 people have been assisted** through this service.

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 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.

IOM has also provided **four containers** to the border police staff at the transit camp in Miratovac and supports government institutions through the engagement of locally hired staff to increase the **field presence and capacity** of two institutions, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Working Group on Mixed Migration Flows.

### Greece

Based on the data IOM collected from the **early warning and information sharing system** done in collaboration with IOM country offices in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, it is forecasted that the number of migrants and refugees crossing the Greek border will continue to rise within the next few days. Due to the increase in daily arrivals and the deterioration in weather conditions, IOM along with other partners are focused on improving the conditions of



In response to increased needs, IOM dispatched rub halls to the transit camp in Idomeni  
© IOM Greece, 2015

the emergency transit camp in Idomeni. IOM has procured and set up three rub halls, along with 10 chemical toilets and 60 waiting benches in order to provide a secure environment for those waiting to cross the borders. The facilities provided by IOM will **expand the capacity** of the transit camp, allowing for an additional 800 people to be hosted.

IOM staff continue to be present in the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Kos and Crete and work closely with authorities (Frontex, the Hellenic Coast Guard and the First Reception Service) to **identify vulnerable migrants and refugees**, including unaccompanied children, elderly, and those with medical needs. Identified cases are referred to the proper services so that they are provided with the necessary care and have immediate access to health care, if necessary. As part of the mobile units of the First Reception Service in Lesbos and Samos Islands, IOM staff provide newly arrived migrants and refugees with **information on their rights and available services** in their native language.

## IOM RESPONSE

### Croatia

The IOM team continues to implement the **displacement tracking matrix (DTM) flow monitoring survey** in Opatovac transit centre through which all migrants and refugees transit before being transported toward the Slovenian border. The survey will continue to be conducted on a daily basis during the next few weeks until a meaningful sample is reached in order to proceed with data analysis. An IOM **data collector** and a DTM assistant are present in Opatovac and the **recruitment of several interpreters** for Arabic and Urdu as well as additional data collectors is ongoing. IOM has additionally deployed two senior staff to support with procurement and resource management.

The information gathered through these surveys will provide a better understanding of the profiles of the migrants and refugees, including where they came from, the routes they are travelling and their reasons for moving. This information will enable Governments and other stakeholders to provide **better, more targeted assistance** to the affected populations. The DTM flow monitoring survey is now piloted in Croatia and will also be rolled out in other affected countries in the coming weeks.

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 this week.

### 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 20 October 2015, IOM, together with its partners and through its legal roving teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, has assisted with more than **386 boat landings** and has provided **assistance and legal counselling** to an estimated

95% of the 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



IOM cultural mediator provides information to migrants rescued at sea by the Italian Coast Guards in Sicily  
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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.

On 21 October, IOM staff **monitored the relocation** of 68 asylum seekers who were in Italy and being moved to Sweden and Finland under the EU relocation programme. Of this total, two Syrian families (19 people) were relocated to Lulea, Sweden and 49 Eritreans were relocated to Tornio, Finland, where their asylum cases will be processed in the respective countries. IOM staff were at the airport and on the plane to monitor the relocation procedure.

## IOM RESPONSE

### Niger

Based on data collected from the transit centres in the Agadez region, IOM estimates that as of 10 October, approximately **7,000 returnees from Libya and Algeria** have transited through the country since the start of the year. About 20 – 40 returnees per week come from Libya via Madama and Dirkou. The majority of these returnees are from West Africa and are between the ages of 16 to 40 years old, who return due to their lack of financial resources to stay in Libya and/or continue on to Europe. IOM estimates that at least 3,000 – 4,000 migrants from West Africa continue to be stranded in Libya.

IOM continues its preparatory work for **flow monitoring** in the Agadez region. IOM is deploying a team of three data collectors and one expert to Seguidine (the main transit point before Madama, which is the last checkpoint in Niger before entering Libya) for one month in this initial phase, to be extended to 12 months if the current migratory route continues to be used.

During the reporting period, 36 migrants were hosted in the Agadez centre upon their return from Libya. IOM, in collaboration with the French Red Cross and the Nigerien Red Cross, have provided **accommodation, food, water and medical screenings** to the migrants. IOM has also organized **transport assistance** for 40 migrants returning from Libya, 36 coming from Agadez and four registered in Niamey. These returnees are going back to Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Cameroon and Mali.

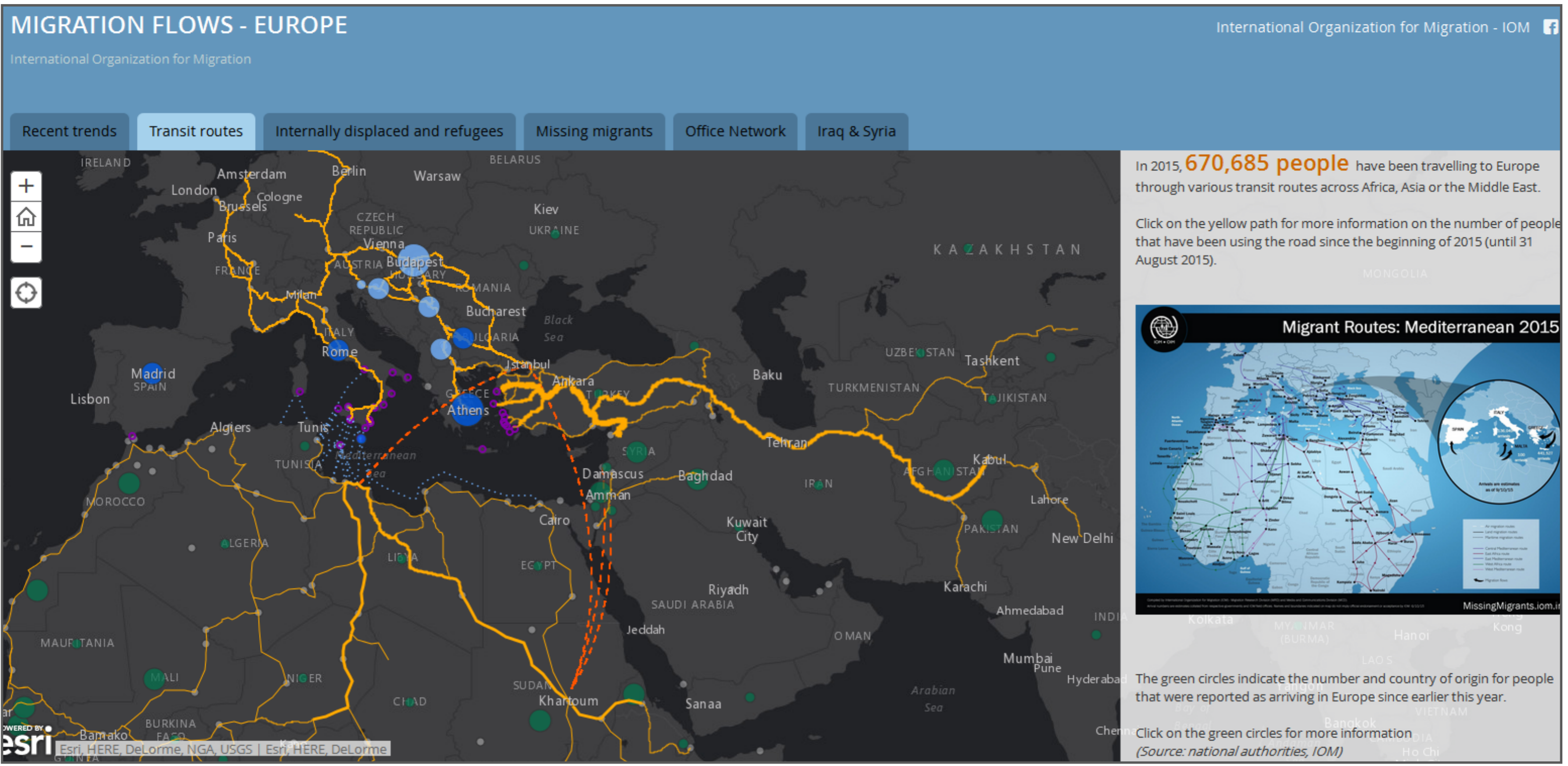
**Reintegration and psychosocial assistance** activities continue in Zinder for the approximately 7,000 returnees from Libya and Algeria. Women returning from Algeria are being supported by IOM and other partners (UNICEF, Save the Children, and Catholic Relief Services) for their socio-economic reintegration. In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, IOM is also trying to identify a suitable location for the establishment of the first **state-shelter for victims of trafficking** in Niger in the Zinder region.



Registration of returnees from Algeria in Agadez  
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# 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** **139,299**

Estimate arrivals as of 21 October  
Source: IOM

**Greece** **514,878**

Estimate arrivals from land and sea  
as of 21 October  
Source: IOM

**Macedonia** **155,739**

People registered as of 19 October  
Source: Government

**Serbia** **246,336**

People registered as of 19 October  
Source: Government

**Croatia** **217,538**

Estimate arrivals as of 21 October  
Source: Government

**Slovenia** **18,469**

Estimate arrivals as of 20 October  
Source: Government

**Hungary** **390,705**

Estimate arrivals as of 19 October  
Source: Government

**Spain** **3,845**

Estimate arrivals as of 21 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 22 October 2015  
sources: IOM • feedback: prd@iom.int

