



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 4 May 2016



Highlights

Football match between migrants and young people from Agadez © IOM Niger, 2016

■ As part of its information and awareness campaign, IOM organized a three-day cultural festival in Agadez, Niger. The festival opened at the IOM transit centre with a video screening exploring migration in Niger and the region. Other activities included a football match in the town square between a migrant team and young people from Agadez, and an evening of participatory theatre to encourage discussion around informed decisions about migration and safer alternatives.

■ IOM has started providing English and Croatian language classes to those migrants at the Zagreb reception centre. Future classes will include an introduction to basic hygiene and cultural orientation.

■ IOM continues to provide assisted voluntary return services for migrants in Greece who are seeking to safely return to their country of origin. As of 3 May, IOM has registered 2,597 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 2,026 migrants.

■ IOM has supported the Turkish Coast Guards in Küçükuyu, Dikili and Çeşme by providing a total of 338 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs, including blankets, baby diapers, hygiene kits, clothing and shoes.

■ In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, IOM is finalizing the renovation work at the Reception Centre for Asylum in Veizbegovo that includes the installation of a drainage system in the reception area that will improve the overall conditions for those staying at the centre.

■ In Presevo, Serbia, IOM provided transportation assistance to vulnerable groups of people who needed to access local service providers, including health and social work centres. During the reporting period, over 230 migrants were provided with this assistance.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 3 May 2016, 189,378 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 (155,090) and Italy (28,563).

On 26 April, there were four separate boat landings in Augusta, Lampedusa, Reggio Calabria and Taranto, Italy that brought in 2,365 new migrants. On 29 April, a rubber dinghy was rescued by an Italian commercial ship only a few hours after its departure from Sabrata, Libya, where 26 migrants were rescued.

According to Greek authorities, the total number of arrivals since the start of 2016 through land and sea is now at 156,266. The majority (53 per cent) of these numbers are crossing into Greece through the island of Lesbos while 30 per cent are crossing through the island of Chios.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the number of migrants and refugees who remain at the reception centre in Gevgelija is currently 136 (31 women, 39 men, and 66 children). In Tabanovce centre, approximately 900 people remain stranded.

As of 2 May, the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) have rescued 24,500 migrants and refugees since the start of this year. During the last reporting period, the average number of people rescued per day was 240; however since 4 April, with the implementation of the EU and Turkey agreement, a tremendous decrease in the number of those rescued has been observed.

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey

IOM continues to provide support to the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) by distributing food, water and non-food items (NFIs) to rescued migrants and refugees. During the reporting period, IOM assisted the TCG in Küçükuyu (a district of Çanakkale province where migrants and refugees cross to the island of Lesbos in Greece) by providing 11 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs, including blankets, clothing and shoes.

Additionally, IOM has supported the TCG in Dikili by providing 257 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs, including blankets, baby diapers, hygiene kits, clothing and shoes. The majority of those rescued in Dikili were from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Syria. In Çeşme, IOM also provided 70 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs.



To date, IOM has provided 24 prefabricated cabins that are installed at 15 reception points where migrants and refugees are rescued at sea. The cabins are used as changing rooms for female migrants and refugees, as well as children, rescued at sea. The cabins also provide storage space for NFIs, including hygiene kits and blankets, which are then distributed to those who have been rescued. Furthermore, IOM has provided a total of 5,000 hygiene kits, 5,000 blankets, and 12 tarpaulin tents to help shelter rescued migrants and refugees from the elements. IOM also procured 2,000 NFIs (1,000 polar fleece clothing items and 1,000 undergarments) for the TCG Aegean Regional Command to provide to those who have been rescued at sea.

IOM RESPONSE

Greece

IOM, in coordination with the First Reception Service continues to operate the open reception centre in Athens which provides accommodation and direct assistance, including psychosocial and medical aid, to vulnerable migrants wishing to return to their country of origin. To date, the centre has provided assistance and accommodation to a total of 644 migrants, of which, 505 have returned to their country of origin.



IOM assists with the daily operation at the hotspot at Leros Island
© IOM Greece, 2016

IOM is currently conducting a needs assessment at recently established accommodation facilities in Northern Greece and Attica to better understand what type of support is needed by the Government to manage and operate the centres. IOM will provide direct assistance to migrants and refugees hosted at these accommodation centres through non-food item (NFI) distribution.

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 3 May, IOM has registered 2,597 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 2,026 migrants, the majority of whom were from Morocco (983), Afghanistan (619), and Iran (343).

IOM continues to be present on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros, and Crete and works closely with authorities (Frontex, the Hellenic Coast Guards, 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. IOM teams are composed of trained cultural mediators who provide information to migrants and refugees in their native language.

During the month of April, IOM provided information services to 1,472 newly arrived migrants and refugees at the First Reception Centres in Lesbos and Samos islands and provided escort services to 21 unaccompanied minors from Lesbos Island to accommodation facilities.

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. 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.

In the month of April, IOM provided AVR assistance to 26 migrants (9 to Morocco, 6 to Iran, 5 to Algeria, 3 to Iraq, 2 to Afghanistan, and 1 to Turkey).

Additionally, in Presevo, IOM provided transportation assistance to vulnerable groups of people who needed to access local service providers, including health and social work centres. During the reporting period, over 230 migrants were provided with this assistance.

IOM RESPONSE

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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.

IOM is providing repair service for an ambulance to be used by migrants staying at the Kumanovo camp so that they are able to access Kumanovo General Hospital. Furthermore, IOM is finalizing the renovation work at the Reception Centre for Asylum in Veizbegovo that includes the installation of a drainage system in the reception area that will improve the overall conditions for those staying at the centre.

Croatia

Following the closure of the Western Balkans route, the Slavonski Brod reception centre in Croatia was closed on 15 April. At the time of closure, the remaining 62 people who had been accommodated at the centre were transferred to a reception centre for asylum seekers in Zagreb, while single men were transferred to a detention centre in Ježevo. IOM has started providing English and Croatian language classes to those migrants at the Zagreb reception centre. Future classes will include an introduction to basic hygiene and cultural orientation.

Niger

During the reporting period, IOM registered 155 new migrants who were requesting voluntary return assistance in the IOM transit centres. Additionally, IOM delivered assistance to 281 migrants with shelter, food, medical and psychosocial support assistance, while 81 migrants were provided with return assistance to their countries of origin, the majority of whom were going back to Cameroon (17), Gambia (10), Nigeria (9), and Guinea Conakry (9).

The Niger flow monitoring points in Arlit and Séguédine continue to record migrants coming into and leaving Niger. During the reporting period, 1,591 migrants were registered entering into Niger. Based on the latest [Niger Flow Monitoring Report](#) published on 2 May, the previous two weeks constituted the highest flows of outgoing and incoming migrants recorded by the flow monitoring, with the increase mainly through Séguédine, while Arlit has remained constant. The report also highlights that a high increase of Nigerians, Ivorians and Nigériens in the outgoing flows while incoming flows continue to have a higher proportion of Nigériens.

As part of its information and awareness campaign, IOM organized a three-day cultural festival in Agadez. The objective was to raise awareness and increase access to information about migration for transiting and potential migrants, host population and migrants living in the city, so that they are aware of safer alternatives to irregular migration towards Algeria and Libya. The festival opened at the IOM transit centre with a video screening exploring migration in Niger and the region. Other activities included a football match in the town square between a migrant team and young people from Agadez, and an evening of participatory theatre to encourage discussion around informed decisions about migration and safer alternatives.



IOM provided language courses to migrants at the Zagreb reception centre © IOM Croatia, 2016

Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

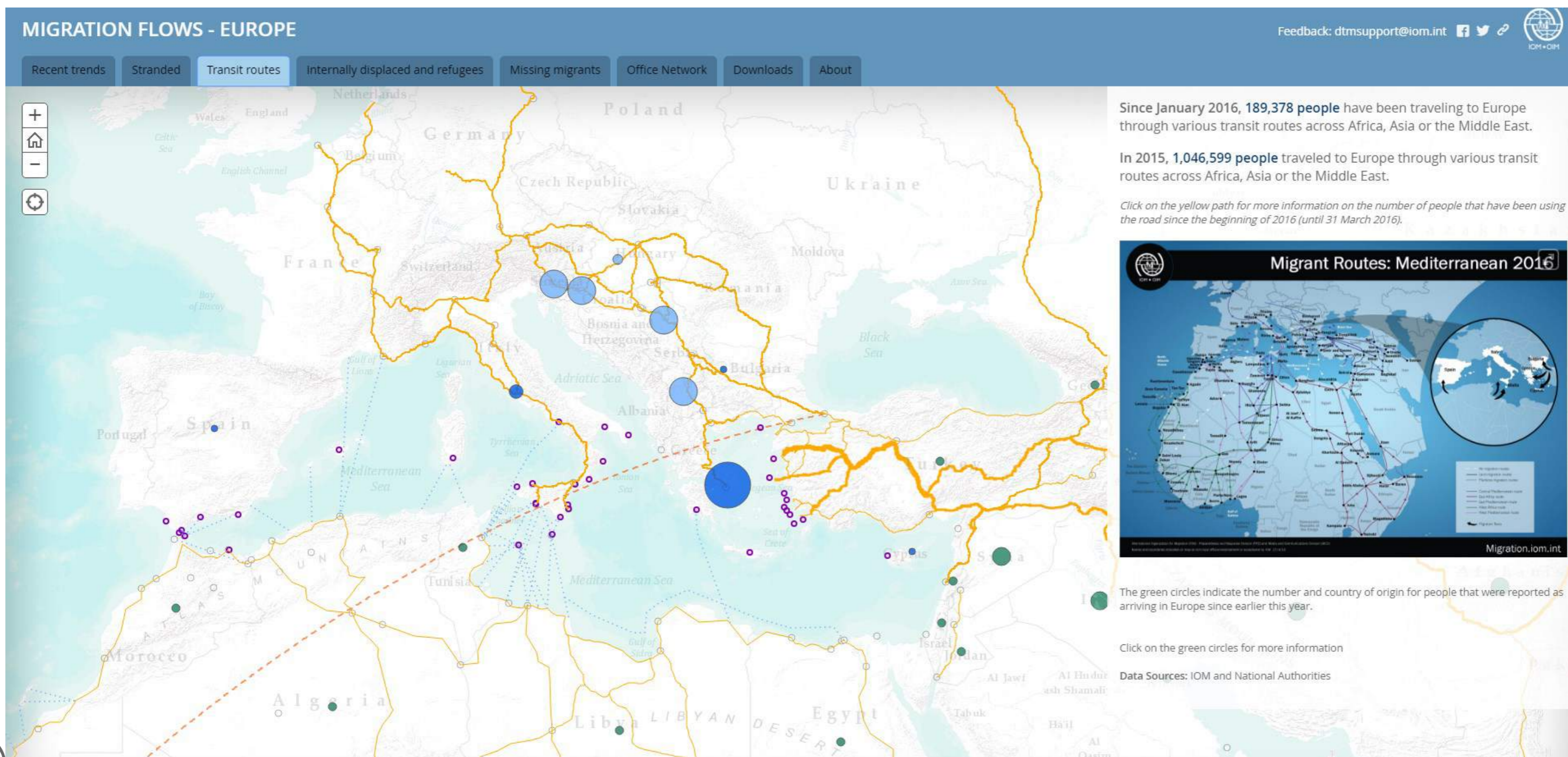
IOM's **online portal** provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the total number of people that travelled to Europe. An updated version of the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

Recent trends in migrant flow

Between 20 April — 3 May 2016*

Country	Greece	Bulgaria	Italy	Cyprus	Serbia	Hungary
Registered Arrivals	1,055	280	3,238	0	15	2,028
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (7—20th April)	Decrease of 20%	Decrease of 55%	Decrease of 46%	Decrease of 100%	Increase of 400%	Increase of 9%

*All other countries in the route have registered zero arrivals in the period between 21 April and 3 May. 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 03 May 2016

Greece **54,142**

Estimate stranded migrants as of 03 May
Source: National authorities, IOM and UNHCR

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **575**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 03 May
Source: National authorities

Serbia **139**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 03 May
Source: National authorities

Croatia **92**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 03 May
Source: National authorities

Slovenia **332**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 03 May
Source: National authorities

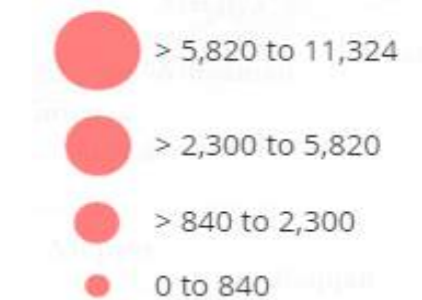
Hungary **1,920**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 03 May
Source: IOM and National authorities

Bulgaria **1,569**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 21 April
Source: Government

Stranded
No. of stranded people as of 03/05/2016



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