



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 31 December 2015



Highlights

IOM provided clothes and food to rescued migrants in Kucukkuyu-Canakkale. © IOM Turkey, 2015

■ Between 18 – 21 December, IOM Turkey assisted 153 rescued migrants at the port of Kucukkuyu, including 25 women, 24 children and 104 men. The migrants were saved by the TCG rescue vessel and during their disembarkation, IOM provided all rescued migrants with food and clothes, including jackets, shirts and socks.

■ IOM Greece staff have started referring vulnerable cases to the reception centre in Athens, where all beneficiaries receive psychosocial and medical services along with the accommodation. Since the announcement of this voluntary return service, IOM has already registered almost 1,000 cases of migrants wishing to return to their country of origin.

■ On International Migrants Day, 18 December, IOM in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, organized awareness raising activities and focused on bringing awareness to unaccompanied children. In coordination with partners from the NGO, Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia, IOM organized the distribution of packages containing winter garments as well as information pamphlets that were given to migrant and refugee children traveling along the Western Balkans route.

■ As of 21 December, IOM Croatia has expanded its field presence with four additional data collectors and has established around the clock presence at the Slavonksi Brod winter reception centre since 27 December.

■ IOM Libya, on 17 December, facilitated the safe and dignified return of 178 stranded Burkinabe migrants, including two women and two children. Some of these migrants had spent months in the migrant detention centres. Before their departure, all migrants spent the night at the Burkinabe embassy, where IOM staff provided them with food and hygiene kits.

■ Between 15 – 28 December, IOM Niger registered an additional 1,066 returning migrants, including 922 Nigerien returnees from Algeria. IOM provided all 922 returnees with temporary accommodation and medical screening before they were transported to their villages of origin.

CONTACTS:

Preparedness and Response Division

✉ prd@iom.int

Donor Relations Division

✉ drd@iom.int

☎ +41.22.7179.271

🌐 <http://www.iom.int>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 20 December, the number of arrivals by sea and land to Europe exceeded one million people, with the total number registered by the relevant national authorities standing at 1,034,745 by 29 December. The vast majority of this number arrived by sea to Greece (839,561) and Italy (152,864).

IOM estimates that more than 90,000 migrants and refugees have crossed into Greece in the month of December. The top five nationalities come from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Iran. According to the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), on 29 December, more than 10 incidents off the coasts of Lesbos and Chios required search and rescue missions. During the rescue missions, the HCG rescued 266 migrants and refugees. By land, the percentage of migrants not allowed to cross the borders has decreased to approximately 10 per cent (from 30 per cent before 25 December) and those not allowed to cross are returned by bus to Athens.

In Bulgaria, a total of 30,425 migrants and refugees were registered between the reporting period, 17 – 29 December. The most prominent nationalities were Iraqis, Syrians, Afghans, Pakistanis and Iranians (according to data from January to November 2015).

From 17 – 29 December, 37,603 migrants and refugees were registered arriving in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, bringing the total number of people who have entered the country as of 29 December to 382,814. Of this total, 51.4 per cent were adult male, 16.9 per cent were adult female, and 29.0 per cent were children, where approximately 16 per cent of the children were unaccompanied. 56 per cent of all registered arrivals were Syrian nationals, 25 per cent were Afghan nationals, and 14 per cent were Iraqi nationals.

In Serbia, the total number of migrants and refugees registered since the start of the year has reached 566,700 according to the Ministry of Interior. The predominant nationalities arriving into the country are Afghans, Syrians, and Iraqis.

Over the reporting period a total of 42,672 migrants and refugees arrived in Croatia with an average of 3,282 people registered daily, and the highest arrivals registered on 29

December (4,523). With the new figures, the total number of migrants and refugees reached 552,071 on 29 December.

Since 20 September, a total of 373,841 migrants and refugees have been registered entering Slovenia, with a daily average of 3,273 registered arrivals over the reporting period, down from 3,153 in the last period (9 – 16 December).

Due to the fence in place along the Serbian and Croatian border, the number of arrivals into Hungary has dramatically decreased since 17 October. During the reporting period, 112 new arrivals were registered by authorities, bringing the total of registered migrants and refugees to 391,369.

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 pilot 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 data on the migration flows along the routes and border points and distribute information to relevant stakeholders, including government authorities.

In addition to providing data on migrant flows, the flow monitoring system helps inform the type of assistance needed and identify vulnerabilities among the population. IOM staff continue to work with NGOs, other international organizations and local authorities on migration management, identification of vulnerable cases and referral to relevant authorities. The information provided through this network allows partners to effectively plan and provide essential support to migrants in several key locations.

Turkey

IOM conducted its third capacity building training session from 15 – 17 December for 35 participants, including members of the Turkish Coast Guard and the Directorate General of Migration Management. The training aims to enhance participant's understanding of mixed migration issues and international migration law, including international migration law at sea. This training programme also included sessions on psychosocial issues concerning affected migrants.

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey (continued)

As of 27 December, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) has rescued a total of 91,080 persons. In the month of December, the TCG reported 8,630 rescues and 74 deaths (the highest monthly total in 2015).

Between 18 – 21 December, IOM assisted 153 rescued migrants at the port of Kucukkuyu, including 25 women, 24



IOM distributing clothes and food to migrants rescued in Kucukkuyu-Canakkale © IOM Turkey, 2015

children and 104 men. The migrants were saved by the TCG rescue vessel and during their disembarkation, IOM provided all rescued migrants with food and clothes, including jackets, shirts and socks.

On 23 December, the TCG rescued another 49 migrants (15 women, 14 children, and 20 men) from the Aegean Sea who were then brought to safety to the port of Kucukkuyu. On 25 December, 25 migrants (6 women, 9 children, and 10 men) were saved by the TCG off the coast of Kucukkuyu-Cape Baba. On both occasions, IOM once again provided much needed food and warm clothing to the rescued migrants.

As of 30 December, IOM field staff has set up a permanent presence in Kucukkuyu to continue providing assistance to the TCG.

Greece

With the opening of a reception centre in Athens to accommodate migrants wishing to return safely to their country of origin, IOM has started to process and provide assisted voluntary return services. The reception centre is able to accommodate up to 110 migrants registered to return and who have no place to stay until their departure. The centre is divided into sections in order to accommodate vulnerable migrants, including single parent families, pregnant women, unaccompanied children, the elderly, and those with medical needs. IOM staff have started referring vulnerable cases to the centre, where all beneficiaries receive psychosocial and medical services along with the accommodation. Since the announcement of this voluntary return service, IOM has already registered almost 1,000 cases of migrants wishing to return to their country of origin.

IOM maintains a permanent presence at the First Reception Centres operating in Lesbos and Samos islands in order to provide migrants information on their legal rights. In addition to having specialized staff in the centres who provide legal information to migrants, IOM has also deployed interpreters that offer translation services to stakeholders operating within the centres ensuring that partners delivering essential services and migrants are able to effectively communicate.

The First Reception Service (FRS) has requested IOM's support in enhancing the services already provided in the island of Lesbos. Therefore, in addition to the provision of legal information to new migrants and refugees in their native language, IOM will be providing escort services to unaccompanied children from Lesbos Island to reception centres in other parts of Greece that are solely to accommodate unaccompanied children, where the children are then provided with the necessary assistance.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Over the two weeks prior to the reporting period (18 November – 28 December) IOM's Flow Monitoring Survey results were collected from 80 migrants and refugees in Gevgelija and Tabanovce. The survey results revealed that 71 per cent (57) reported conflict and war as their reasons for fleeing their countries and the majority of respondents (63 per cent or 50 individuals) noted Germany as their intended country of destination.

IOM RESPONSE

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (continued)

To support the winterization efforts at the transit reception centres in Kumanovo and Gevgelija, IOM has provided a total of 12 heaters and 29 bunk beds to both centres to help in accommodating the migrants and refugees.



IOM distributed packages of warm clothes and pamphlets to migrant and refugee children © IOM Skopje, 2015

On International Migrants Day, 18 December, IOM organized awareness raising activities at the transit reception centre in Kumanovo and focused on bringing awareness to unaccompanied children, a group particularly at risk to various types of exploitation and abuse as well as hardships along the migratory route. In coordination with partners from the NGO, Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia, IOM organized the distribution of information and clothing packages at the train station in Tabanovce. The packages contained winter garments as well as information pamphlets that were given to migrant and refugee children traveling along the Western Balkans route.

Serbia

As part of the Early Warning Information Sharing Network, IOM teams continue to be 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 continues to provide incoming migrants and refugees with necessary information and referrals to the registration centre in Presevo.

On 15 December, the transit centre in Miratovac was successfully relocated to be closer to the railway station and was officially operational and opened by the Serbian Minister for Labour, Employment, Social and Veteran Policy as well as IOM representatives from the regional and country offices. For the new transit centre, IOM has installed 29 containers and the new centre will be able to accommodate up to 500 migrants and refugees.

IOM continues to offer transportation assistance from the Miratovac transit centre to the Presevo registration centre. During the reporting period, approximately 2,500 vulnerable migrants are provided with this transport assistance each day.

Croatia

IOM, together with the Ministry of the Interior (MOI), the Croatian Red Cross (CRC) and UNHCR, co-led the marking of International Migrants Day on 18 December at the Slavonski Brod reception transit centre. The Deputy Prime Minister opened the event which was followed by reflections on the current migrant and refugee situation presented by IOM, UNHCR and CRC. Following the reflections, translators from



IOM, along with the MOI, CRC and UNHCR co-led the marking of International Migrants Day © IOM Croatia, 2015

different organizations, including two from IOM, who were active in the centre were invited to share their experiences and briefly introduce their country of origin.

IOM RESPONSE

Croatia (continued)

Over an eleven week period (7 October – 29 December) the IOM team collected Flow Monitoring surveys from 1,150 migrants and refugees in Opatovac and Slavonski Brod. Of those surveyed, an overwhelming majority (91 per cent or 1,043 individuals) reported conflict and war as their reason for fleeing their country of origin. IOM staff are present at the moment migrants and refugees arrive in the Slavonski Brod centre to provide them with basic information about the centre, the registration process and the services available to them. Among the staff are interpreters who are available to the migrants and refugees during their registration waiting period. IOM interpreters are also available to the authorities and other partners.

As of 21 December, IOM has expanded its field presence to include four additional data collectors and as a result, IOM has established around the clock presence at the Slavonski Brod winter reception centre since 27 December.

The 20 heated containers procured by IOM have all been installed and operational at the Slavonski Brod centre. The containers installed in Sectors 4 and 6 of the centre are regularly used to accommodate vulnerable migrants and refugees as they arrive.

Libya



IOM distributed food and hygiene kits to migrants prior to their departure flight © IOM Libya, 2015

In order to allow a swift and coordinated response by national and international stakeholders in providing

humanitarian assistance to those in need inside Libya, IOM established the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system to regularly collect and distribute data. IOM is in its last stages of collecting figures on IDPs, migrants and flow of migrants in Libya and will generate its first DTM report at the beginning of 2016.

As a continuation of its humanitarian repatriation assistance, IOM, on 17 December, facilitated the safe and dignified return of 178 stranded Burkinabe migrants, including two women and two children. Some of these migrants had spent



Migrant mother and child awaiting their flight home to Burkina Faso © IOM Libya, 2015

months in the migrant detention centres. Before their departure, all migrants spent the night at the Burkinabe embassy, where IOM staff provided them with food and hygiene kits. Almost all of these migrants had enter Libya via Niger, paying smugglers, between USD \$800 and USD \$1,300 for a trip that lasted anywhere from two weeks to a month.

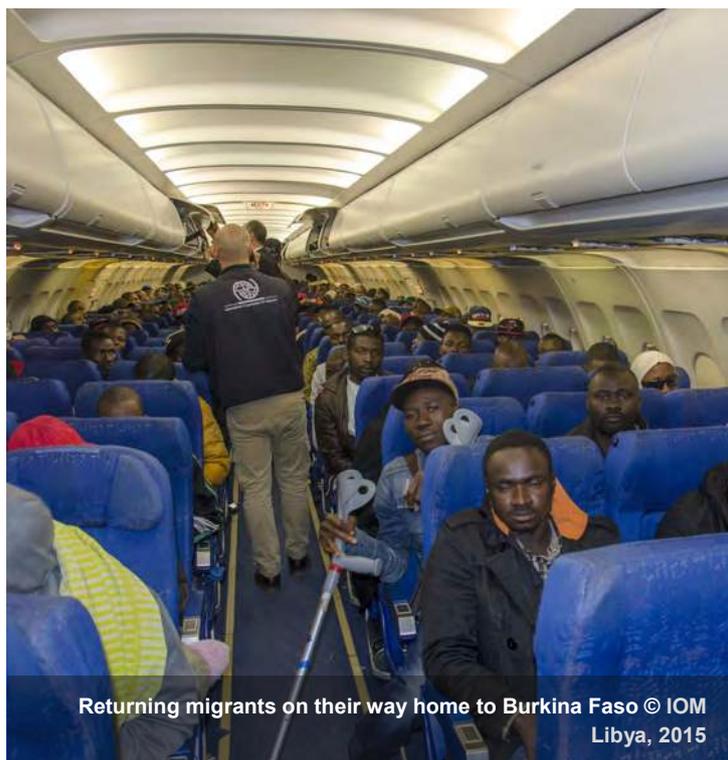
One returnee, *Idriss*, a 25 year old farmer, informed IOM he was beaten and tortured by unknown gunmen until he lost consciousness. He explained that he had mistakenly entered a militia base next to a friend's home and has since then suffered from partial amnesia and lack of sleep due to recurring nightmares almost every night.

IOM RESPONSE

Libya (continued)

Another returnee, *Salma*, worked as a housemaid and is a mother of four children, explaining, “I left my three children back in Burkina Faso and came together with my husband to find work in Libya. But he had to return home because of illness. I was left behind, alone with my son Yassin, who is now 2 years old. He needs surgery urgently, which I do not have the money for. The family that I used to work for left for good. I was alone in their house without a job so I had to leave. I rented a room for us with what remained from my savings.”

This charter was the second of a series of humanitarian repatriation flights that IOM is planning in the coming months to Senegal, Nigeria, Mali, and Burkina Faso. IOM has finalized the interviews and medical checks of an additional 202 stranded migrants (110 from Burkina Faso and 82 from Senegal) who are scheduled to return in early January 2016.



Returning migrants on their way home to Burkina Faso © IOM Libya, 2015

During International Migrants Day on 18 December, IOM, through its partners, distributed hygiene kits and clothes to 1,150 migrants accommodated at the Suq Al-Ahad detention centre. The distribution was organized along with physical and social activities for the migrants.



Social and physical activities organized for International Migrants Day © IOM Libya, 2015

Niger

Between 15 – 28 December, IOM registered an additional 1,066 returning migrants, including 922 Nigerien returnees from Algeria. Among the total Nigerien returnees, 21 per cent (195) were adult female, 33 per cent (300) were adult male, and 46 per cent (427) were children. IOM provided all 922 returnees with temporary accommodation and medical screening before they were transported to their villages of origin.

In addition, IOM has facilitated the repatriation of 54 third country nationals to their country of origin (30 to Senegal, 10 to Gambia, 7 to Cameroon, 2 to Guinea Bissau, 3 to Liberia, 1 to Burkina Faso, and 1 to Mali). IOM has also started nine community socio-economic reintegration projects for the migrants voluntarily returning to the two most affected countries, Senegal and Gambia. The reintegration activities involve members from the communities of origin and strong vocational training have been planned for the returning migrants. All activities are coordinated by IOM country offices in Niger and in the countries of origin.

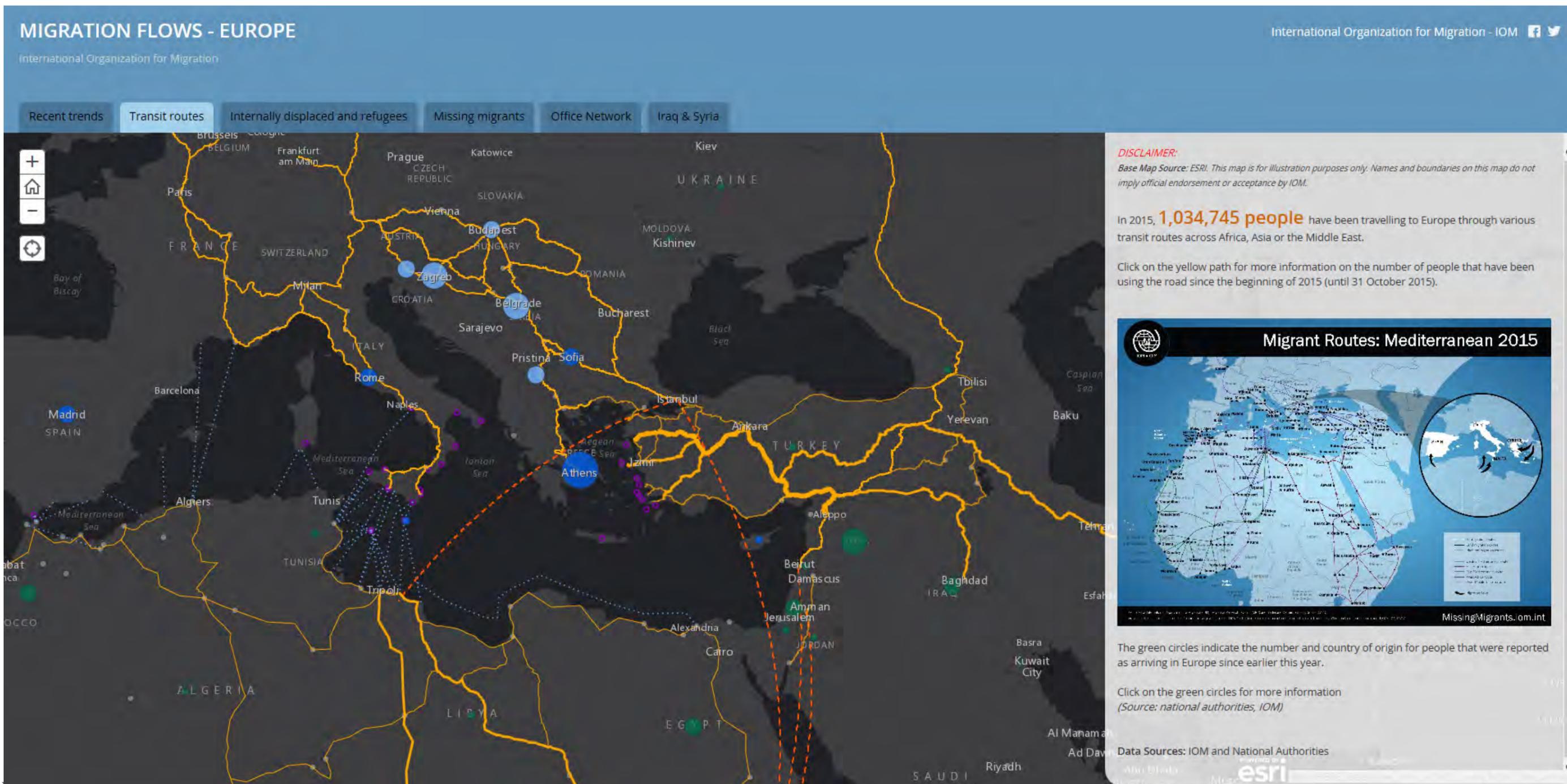
Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

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 17 December - 29 December

Country	Greece	Macedonia	Serbia	Croatia	Slovenia	Hungary	Italy
Registered Arrivals	39,443	37,603	35,557	39,480	39,413	32	1,793
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (4th December—17th December)	Decrease of 22%	Decrease of 16%	Decrease of 8%	Decrease of 5%	Decrease of 3.3%	Increase of 37.2%	Decrease of 41%



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

Movement Trends and Numbers

ARRIVALS

Italy **152,864**

Estimate arrivals as of 29 December
Source: IOM

Greece **847,236**

Estimate arrivals for land and sea
as of 29 December
Source: IOM

Macedonia **382,814**

People registered between June to
29 December
Source: Government

Serbia **566,700**

Estimate arrivals as of 29 December
Source: IOM

Croatia **552,071**

Estimate arrivals as of 29 December
Source: Government

Slovenia **373,841**

Initial estimate as of 29 December
Source: Government

Hungary **391,369**

Estimate arrivals as of 29 December
Source: Government

Bulgaria **30,425**

Estimate arrivals as of 17 December
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

As of 29 December 2015
sources: IOM • feedback: prd@iom.int

