



# EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 28 July 2016



## Highlights

Rescued migrants from a boat landing in Palermo © IOM Italy

■ **TURKEY:** In Çeşme, IOM has hired a social worker to work with rescued migrants and refugees. The social worker will identify persons with specific needs and provide them with information on their rights as well as the importance of registration in Turkey. Another social worker will be hired and placed in Dikili in the coming weeks.

■ **GREECE:** IOM provided information services to 1,182 beneficiaries at the reception and identification centres in Lesbos and Samos, while 378 migrants were registered in Lesbos through the assistance of IOM cultural mediators. As of 27 July, IOM has assisted 2,662 beneficiaries under the EU relocation programme.

■ **CROATIA:** During the reporting period, a total of 30 language (20 in English and 10 in Croatian) courses were organized and provided at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Zagreb. As of 27 July, IOM has provided a total of 162 courses (90 English language classes, 45 Croatian language classes, and 27 culture orientation classes).

■ **LIBYA:** On 15 July, IOM provided 150 migrants at Abu Essa detention centre with non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits. On 16 July, IOM additionally distributed NFI and hygiene kits to 267 migrants at the Misrata detention centre through its local partner, STACO.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 27 July 2016, a total of 261,923 migrants and refugees have arrived in Europe by land and sea routes since the start of 2016, the majority of whom have entered by sea through Greece (161,729) and Italy (89,062).

In Greece, seven new accommodation centres in the south will be opened to accommodate the migrants and refugees being transported from the Elliniko area and Piraeus port. According to the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), during the reporting period there were a total of 15 incidents off the coasts of Lesbos, Kos, and Chios islands that required search and rescue operation. The HCG managed to rescue 602 migrants and transferred them to the respective island. IOM staff are present in Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Crete Islands and are working closely with authorities (Frontex, the Hellenic Coastguards and the First Reception Service) to identify vulnerable migrants including unaccompanied minors, elderly migrants, migrants with medical needs, and families with children.

Due to a new legislative measure in Hungary that allows for the push-backs of migrants and refugees within an 8km strip along the Hungarian border into the Serbian territory, the situation in the north has deteriorated, resulting in an increased number of refugees and migrants on the Serbian side of the border during the reporting period. The number of stranded migrants in Serbia has risen to 1,728 as of 26 July, with the majority being women and children. The situation remains challenging although authorities and humanitarian agencies, including IOM and UNHCR, continue to provide targeted assistance to the refugees and migrants that reported having been pushed-back from Hungarian into Serbian territory. On 22 July, a group of approximately 146 male refugees and migrants began a hunger strike in Belgrade and embarked on a "peace march" to the north of Serbia, asking to be allowed to enter Hungary upon their arrival at the border.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the number of migrants and refugees remaining at the reception centre in Gevgelija is 130, out of which 29 are women, 41 are men and 60 are children. The numbers remaining at the centre in Tabanovce is approximately 79.

As of 27 July, the Turkish Coast Guard has rescued 26,749 migrants and refugees since the start of this year.

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## IOM RESPONSE

### Turkey



IOM staff providing refreshments to rescued migrants and refugees.  
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IOM supports the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) by distributing food, water, and non-food items (NFIs) to rescued migrants and refugees. During the reporting period, IOM assisted the TCG in Dikili (one of the points in İzmir for irregular migrants and refugees crossing to Lesbos in Greece) through the provision of food, water and NFIs (including blankets, clothing and shoes) for 83 migrants and refugees who were rescued at sea. The majority of those rescued at sea in Dikili came from Syria and Iraq.

In Çeşme, IOM has hired a social worker to work with rescued migrants and refugees. The social worker will identify persons with specific needs and provide them with information on their rights as well as the importance of registration in Turkey. Another social worker will be hired and placed in Dikili in the coming weeks.

To date, with funding from the European Commission – Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), 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, 12 tarpaulin tents to help shelter rescued migrants and refugees from the elements, 14 heaters, and 340 plastic

chairs for the reception areas. To meet a recent request by the TCG, IOM will be procuring 500 additional plastic chairs to be used at the TCG rescue and reception areas.

Through funding from the US Association for International Migration (USAIM), IOM has also procured 300 pairs of shoes which will be used by migrants and refugees rescued at sea in Çeşme. IOM will procure an additional 300 pairs of shoes for those migrants and refugees rescued at sea in Dikili.

### Greece

During the reporting period, IOM provided information services to 1,182 beneficiaries at the reception and identification centres in Lesbos and Samos, while 378 migrants were registered in Lesbos with the assistance of IOM cultural mediators. Moreover, the IOM cultural mediators assisted a total of 632 beneficiaries during the medical procedure and provided interpretation services for psychosocial sessions to those accommodated at the centres.

At the accommodation camps in Katsika, Derveni, and Karamanlis, IOM installed six communication containers that will provide migrants and refugees access to information regarding their rights and options during their stay in Greece. Furthermore, IOM protection teams are present at the accommodation camps as well as unofficial points in order to identify vulnerable cases and refer them to the appropriate authorities for assistance.



IOM installing communication containers in Derveni accommodation camp  
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## Greece (continued)

IOM continues to provide Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) services and extensive information campaigns at the Greek islands and open facilities where the majority of the stranded migrants are accommodated. During the reporting period, IOM provided AVR information to 1,430 migrants throughout Greece. Since the beginning of 2016, IOM has assisted 3,623 migrants (including 28 medical cases and 44 unaccompanied minors) return to their country of origin safely and with dignity. The majority of this total were returned to Morocco (1,005) and Afghanistan (800).



IOM staff assisting unaccompanied minors at the reception centre in Orestiada.  
© IOM Greece 2016

As of 27 July, IOM has assisted 2,662 beneficiaries under the EU relocation programme. During the pre-departure phase, IOM conducted health assessments to ensure that beneficiaries travel in safety. Furthermore, IOM organized pre-departure and cultural orientation sessions, providing information on their rights and obligations, what to expect when they arrive, as well as pre-embarkation information. During the reporting period, a total of 267 beneficiaries were relocated to France (146), Finland (24), and the Netherlands (97), while an additional 250 beneficiaries are scheduled to depart later this week and next week.

## Serbia

IOM teams continue to provide counselling on AVR options to migrants in Serbia who are seeking to return to their country of origin. IOM teams are deployed at Presevo

Registration Centre, Dimitrovgrad, Sid and Kelebija/Horogs border crossing points. For vulnerable families and individuals, IOM also provides transportation to local institutions and service providers such as the local health centre and centre for social work.

Since mid-February 2016, IOM has provided AVR assistance to a total of 44 beneficiaries. Four additional beneficiaries are scheduled for departure (one to Morocco; one to Senegal; two to Iran) later this week. 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.

## Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

IOM has two mobile teams in the Tabnovce and Gevgelija reception centres. Each team consists of three staff members (a translator, social worker and medical officer) who 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 also helps to support the Border Police units in facilitating communication with migrants/refugees by establishing mobile teams of interpreters from Arabic to Macedonian.



IOM staff teaching Syrian children how to ride a bike. © IOM Skopje 2016

## Croatia



IOM staff participating in a round table at “Atlantis XII” in Orahovica.  
© IOM Croatia 2016

On 25 July, IOM participated in a round table with NGOs at the International Youth Camp “Atlantis XII” in Orahovica, Croatia. The round table was organized by the Croatian Red Cross (CRC), together with IOM, UNICEF, and UNHCR. The theme of the round table was “Time to Engage: Youth Action in Crisis Response and Peace-Building”. Approximately 40 youth from 26 organizations, including the Mediterranean Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Crystal National Organization, had the opportunity to ask representatives from CRC and international humanitarian agencies about their experiences responding to the migrant and refugee crisis in Croatia. Topics discussed included family reunification, education and integration, managing future crisis, and counter-trafficking.

IOM continues to deliver English and Croatian language classes for migrant and asylum seekers. Due to increased interest and participation in the language classes, English courses have been split into two groups. During the reporting period, a total of 30 language (20 in English and 10 in Croatian) courses were organized and provided at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (RCAS) in Zagreb. As of 27 July, IOM has provided a total of 162 courses (90 English language classes, 45 Croatian language classes, and 27 culture orientation classes).

Furthermore, IOM interpreters for Arabic, Urdu, and Farsi continue to provide support and act as cultural mediators for information dissemination and communication among the asylum seekers, migrants and refugees. Two workshops to raise awareness on gender-based violence are being

organized and scheduled to take place in August.

During the reporting period, a total of 205 weather-appropriate shoes and clothing sets were distributed to migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated at the RCAS in Zagreb, with 50 more to be distributed in the next reporting period. IOM is also planning to distribute weather-appropriate shoes and clothing sets at the RCAS in Kutina in the coming weeks. Additionally, IOM visited the Children’s Home in Osijek and delivered 7 sets of shoes and clothing to unaccompanied children migrants accommodated at the home.



Sets of weather-appropriate shoes and clothes prepared by IOM to be delivered to reception centres in Zagreb and Kutina © IOM Croatia 2016

Furthermore, a total of 122 varieties of children toys were delivered to the RCAS in Zagreb with planned distribution in both Zagreb and Kutina. IOM also purchased and delivered 306 education books (Croatian language textbooks/workbooks, English grammar books and workbooks) that are used during the language workshops.

## Slovenia

As part of the EU relocation programme, a new group of 32 asylum seekers are expected to arrive in Slovenia by mid-August.

From 25 – 29 July, IOM has organized and is implementing a five-day training workshop for cultural mediators. Fifteen participants from diverse backgrounds and linguistic skills are strengthening their capacities to assist with intercultural mediation, with a specific focus on assisting in healthcare provision.

## Italy

On 22 July, SOS Méditerranée rescued two rubber dinghies 20 miles off the Libyan coasts, containing a total of 209 migrants and 22 dead bodies on board, out of which, 21 were female casualties.

IOM teams continue to be deployed at the main boat landing points in Sicily (including Lampedusa), Calabria, and Apulia. The IOM teams provide legal assistance to those arriving by sea, monitor the reception conditions of migrants, and support the authorities in the identification of vulnerable populations. Vulnerable cases also include unaccompanied children, migrants in need of health and/or psychosocial support, women victims of trafficking, and the elderly. Furthermore, two IOM teams work in Sicily and Apulia with the specific aims of enhancing detection and identification of victims of trafficking and referring them for services to relevant authorities.

## Libya

During the reporting period, four maritime incidents were reported off the coast of Libya, where three were rescue operations conducted by the Libyan Coast Guards (LCG) who managed to rescue 451 migrants and bring them back to Libya. The fourth incident involved bodies that had washed ashore. According to Subratha municipality, the current number of bodies that had washed ashore is 100, with numbers increasing on a daily basis. The bodies are believed to come from two boats that had previously sank the week before.

On 14 July, IOM organized a voluntary repatriation charter flight from Libya to Guinea Conakry for 173 stranded Guinean migrants. The operation was funded by the Swiss Secretariat for Migration and the European Union, and was done in close cooperation with Guinea's Embassy in Libya and the Libyan Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). Upon their arrival in Guinea Conakry, all 173 returnees were provided with money for onward transportation to their final destinations. Twenty of the most vulnerable returnees will also be given reintegration assistance.

On 15 July, IOM provided 150 migrants at Abu Essa detention centre with non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits. On 16 July, IOM additionally distributed NFI and hygiene kits to 267 migrants at the Misrata detention centre through its local partner, STACO.

Following a rescue at sea operation conducted by the LCG on 21 July, IOM provided hygiene kits to 137 rescued migrants (108 males, 27 females, and 2 children), while local partners provided health assistance and medical screenings.



IOM distributing hygiene kits to rescued migrants outside Tajoura.  
© IOM Libya 2016

In Tunis, between 19 – 21 July, IOM organized a three-day training that focused on health care assessment to promote the health of migrants transiting through Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Yemen as well as how to assist migrants rescued at sea and internally displaced people in Libya. The training brought together 24 participants, including 13 government officials from the DCIM and the LCG, eight health workers from IOM's implementing partners, and three IOM doctors.

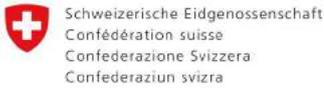
## Niger

Between 14 - 27 July, IOM registered 612 new arrivals requesting voluntary return services at the IOM transit centres. IOM also provided 702 migrants with shelter, food, medical and psychosocial support assistance. Furthermore, IOM provided 138 migrants with return assistance to their country of origin, the majority of whom were returned to Senegal (38), Guinea Conakry (28), Mali (14), Gambia (9), and Guinea Bissau (9).

IOM operations are supported by:



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



Département fédéral de justice et police DFJP  
Secrétariat d'Etat aux migrations SEM



# Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

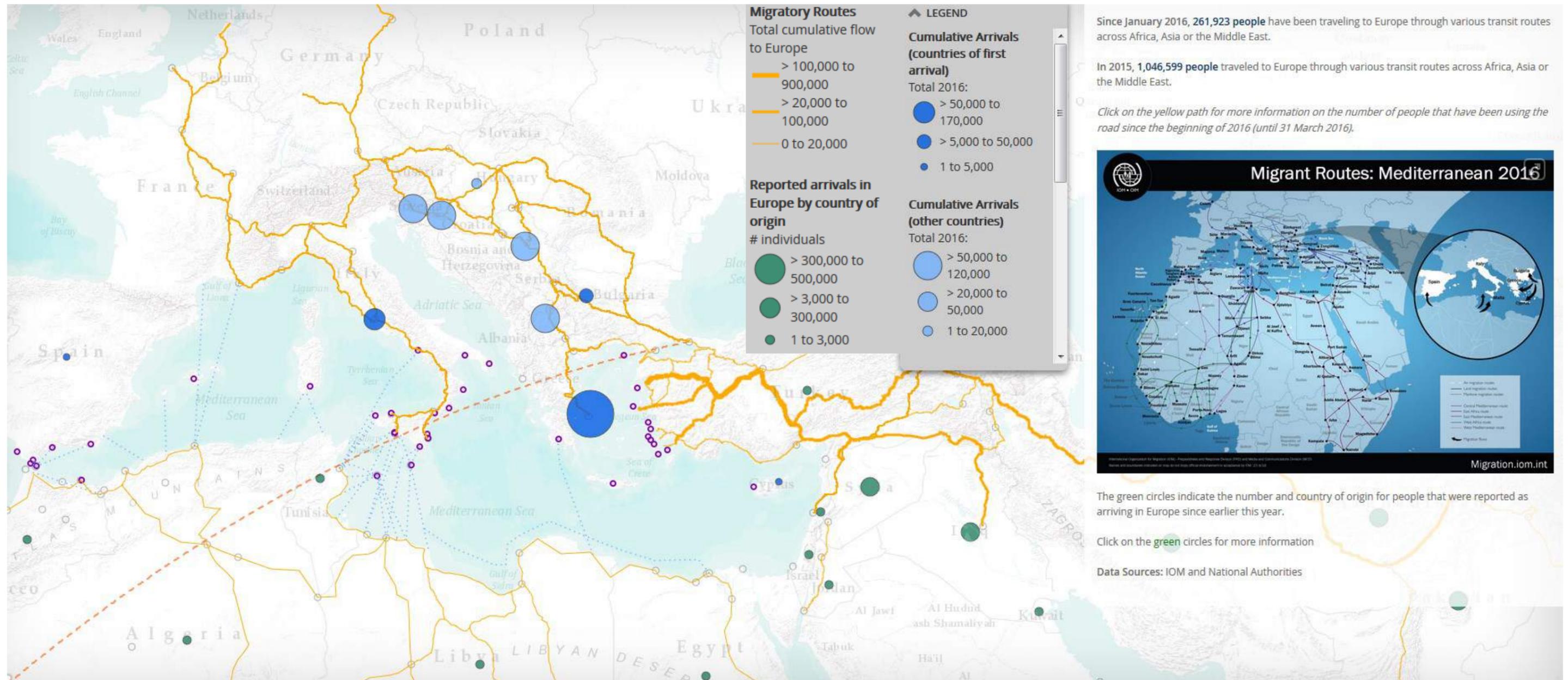
IOM's **online portal** provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the total number of people that travelled to Europe. An updated version of the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

### Recent trends in migrant flow

Between 14 July — 27 July 2016\*

Country	Greece	Bulgaria	Italy	Serbia	Hungary
<b>Registered Arrivals</b>	1,114	824	10,575	245	92
<b>Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (15 June— 28 June)</b>	Increase of 51%	Decrease of 25%	Decrease of 18%	Decrease of 19%	Decrease of 83%

\*All other countries in the route have registered zero arrivals in the period between the reporting period. 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 27 July 2016

**Greece** **57,182**

Estimate stranded migrants as of 26 July  
Source: National authorities, IOM and UNHCR

**Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** **209**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 26 July  
Source: National authorities

**Serbia** **1,728**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 26 July  
Source: National authorities

**Croatia** **48**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 26 July  
Source: National authorities

**Slovenia** **268**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 26 July  
Source: National authorities

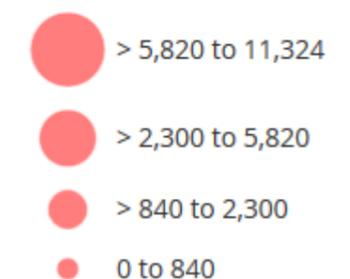
**Hungary** **527**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 26 July  
Source: IOM and National authorities

**Bulgaria** **2,308**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 21 July  
Source: Government

**Stranded**  
No. of stranded people  
as of 27/07/2016



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 27 July 2016  
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