



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 5 October 2015



Highlights

IOM staff in Sicily providing information to migrants arriving by sea © IOM Rome, 2015

- In the former **Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, IOM is supporting the Government to prepare for the upcoming winter months, IOM is providing temporary shelters at reception points for the migrants and refugees awaiting registration in Gevgelija.
- IOM has provided three rub halls, 10 chemical toilets and 60 wooden waiting benches to the emergency camp in Idomeni, **Greece** to help address the immediate needs of migrants and refugees.
- IOM has launched an **online portal** of trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.
- In **Croatia**, IOM provided an overview of the mobility tracking matrix activities to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, to show how flow monitoring provides a better understanding of the movement of migrants coming in from Serbia.
- During the reporting period, IOM teams in **Italy** informed approximately 739 migrants on the risks of being exploited as well as on the protection mechanisms provided by Italian immigration law. Of this group, IOM identified 428 victims of trafficking, the majority of whom were young Nigerians girls and minors.
- At the request of the **Serbian Government**, IOM supported the organization of a training on emergency response for 180 local municipal trustees.
- IOM has developed the Migration Response and Resource Mechanism (MRRM), which has now entered into its first pilot phase in **Niger**. The MRRM aims to provide operational support to government authorities by addressing complex migration flows, facilitate the identification and registration of migrants, and support data collection to feed into evidence-based policy and programming.
- In **Libya**, as a response to the high numbers of migrants and refugees being rescued at sea, 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.

CONTACTS:

Preparedness and Response Division

✉ prd@iom.int

Donor Relations Division

✉ drd@iom.int

☎ +41.22.7179.271

🌐 <http://www.iom.int>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 2 October, an estimated total of **533,591 arrivals by sea** have been reported with a total of 2,887 deaths. Countries of arrival are Italy (131,431), Malta (105), Greece (399,236) and Spain (2,819).

Fatal incidents continue to be recorded in the Aegean Sea, where an estimated 37 lives were lost in just one week while another 40 more are still reported missing off the coasts of Lesbos and Farmakonisi. Between 25 – 28 September, IOM reported 15,050 migrants crossing the borders into **Greece**. The total number of arrivals in Greece has reached **399,236** and the number of daily arrivals continue to increase despite the worsening weather conditions.

As of 28 September, a total of **102,753** migrants and refugees have entered the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The numbers crossing the border from Greece and entering into Gevgelija continue to be estimated at 5,000 arrivals a day.

In **Serbia**, the Government continues to invest its resources to ensure that migrants and refugees entering its territory are registered, provided with medical care, food, water and accommodation. Daily arrivals continue to reach **5,000** and due to rain, the conditions in the transit camp in Miratovac and in the reception centre in Presevo remain challenging for migrants and refugees. Preparations to provide assistance during the winter season have started but additional resources are required. After the closure of the border on the Hungarian side, the majority of migrants are have resorted to exiting Serbia through Croatia.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, a total of **110,641** migrants and refugees have entered **Croatia** from 16 September – 4 October, a period of less than 20 days. From 17 – 30 September, the Health Ministry has reported administering **7,630 medical interventions**, out of which 193 patients were referred to for further specialist treatments, resulting in 28 hospitalizations. The main causes of health problems are related to exhaustion and dehydration, and pregnant women and young children have been particularly impacted. The main border point from Serbia to Croatia has shifted from Tovarnik to Bapska, which is closer to the transit centre that the Government established in Opatovac.

Slovenia has begun to experience a significant increase of arrivals of migrants and refugees transiting through the country. As of 30 September, **4,338** migrants have arrived in Slovenia, in comparison to a total of 740 entries registered by the Slovenian police in the first half of 2015. The majority of recent arrivals originate from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

Since the beginning of the year, approximately **131,431** migrants have arrived in **Italy** by sea with an average of 508 arrivals per day. IOM has registered a slight decrease of arrivals (approximately 6,000 less) compared to the same period last year. The top five countries of origin are Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

Working in close coordination with UNHCR and other international and national stakeholders, IOM continues to assist the Governments of the **Western Balkan countries** currently not affected by the migration flows to prepare for a possible change in the existing routes. In Albania, IOM is assisting the Government in finalising its **contingency plans** while IOM experts have worked with the Montenegro authorities to develop their plan and has started to support the relevant counterparts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In response to the current migration flows, IOM has launched an **online portal of trends and transit routes** related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The website can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

IOM RESPONSE

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In order to support the Government in planning and adjusting their response to take into account the approach of the winter months, IOM will be **providing temporary shelter** for the migrants and refugees awaiting registration in Gevgelija.

The migration flows include a range of vulnerable migrants, including undocumented persons and unaccompanied and separated children, with a significant number facing protection concerns. IOM is helping to respond through the **facilitation of referrals** to relevant authorities as well as **transportation of vulnerable populations** to social services.

IOM will also be supporting the government's Centre for Crisis Management through the **provision of technical equipment and trainings on migration crisis management**. The support aims to increase the Centre's preparedness to respond to the migration flows and ensure that appropriate and timely assistance and protection are provided to migrants and refugees.

Serbia

An IOM team has been deployed to the southern border to assist the Border Police at the entry point in Miratovac in providing **flow monitoring** and **information** to migrants and refugees. The team is also providing vulnerable families and individuals with **transportation assistance** from the border crossing to the registration centre. On average, IOM

IOM RESPONSE

Serbia (continued)

provides 600-700 people per day with transportation assistance. In close coordination with the Border Police and local railway staff, IOM also organizes transfer of the migrants and refugees from the “green border” to the registration centre in Presevo.

At the request of the Government, IOM supported the organization of a **training on emergency response** for 180 local municipal trustees. The training aimed to improve their capacities to manage the migration flows as well as to lead crisis response in their respective municipalities. Additionally, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, in coordination with IOM, OHCHR, and UNHCR conducted a **workshop for local institutions on the human rights** of refugees and migrants. IOM provided experts to deliver training sessions to the participants.

Greece

The Government has set up an emergency camp in Idomeni that has the capacity to host approximately 800 migrants and refugees. IOM is providing three **rub halls**, **10 chemical toilets** and **60 wooden waiting benches** to assist in this initiative.



IOM assisting migrants and refugees arriving in Idomeni
© IOM Greece, 2015

Hellenic Coastguards and the First Reception Service) to **identify and assist vulnerable populations** including unaccompanied and separated children, the elderly, and those with medical needs. Vulnerable groups are referred to relevant authorities in order to be provided with the necessary care.



IOM receiving rub halls for the emergency camp in Idomeni
© IOM Greece, 2015

IOM has been an active partner in the **training and capacity building** of professionals on the issue of human trafficking. IOM has organized and held several training sessions for Greek officials, including judges, law enforcement officers and health professionals.

IOM, continues to offer **emergency services in Samos and Lesvos** 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 gathers **data on the migrant flows** to ensure that government authorities are aware of the nature, composition and scale of the flows. Data collected aids in informing the type of assistance needed and helps to identify vulnerabilities in the migrant population.

IOM staff are present in Lesvos, Samos, Kos and Crete islands and work closely with authorities (Frontex, the

IOM RESPONSE

Croatia

IOM has provided an overview of the **mobility tracking matrix** activities to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior to show how flow monitoring provides a better understanding of the movement of migrants coming in from Serbia. In view of the growing concern that migrants could start using routes through Montenegro or Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Prime Minister has stated that despite media reports about preparations being underway to accommodate migrants in the southernmost region of the country, Croatia would not open this route for potential entry of migrants, reiterating that only the northern route would remain open as long as feasible.

Italy

IOM has two **anti-trafficking teams** who work in Sicily and Apulia with the specific objectives of enhancing detection and identification of victims of trafficking and exploitation, and providing assistance to the identified victims. During the reporting period, approximately 739 migrants were informed on the risks of being exploited as well as on the protection mechanisms provided by Italian immigration law. Of this group, IOM further identified **428 victims of trafficking**, the majority of whom were young Nigerians girls and minors.

IOM further supports the authorities in **detecting vulnerable cases** both at landing points and in the reception centres. During the reporting period, IOM **identified and referred cases of vulnerable migrants**, including 130 cases of unaccompanied children who were wrongly classified as adults during the disembarkation procedures, and migrants in need of health and psychosocial assistance.

In Lampedusa, Sicily, Calabria, and Apulia, IOM teams, composed of **field officers and interpreters/cultural mediators**, met with migrants at the landing points and in reception centres to support them with **legal counselling and assistance**. IOM, together with its partners and through its **roving legal teams** in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, has assisted with more than **320** boat landings. IOM has provided assistance and legal counselling to approximately **95%** of the migrants arriving by sea, both at landing points and in the first reception centres. This includes informing migrants on Italian migration rules and procedures and on the risks of irregular migration and exploitation. The IOM team also **monitors the assistance** procedures that are carried out in the reception centres to ensure that the fundamental rights of migrants are being respected.

Libya

To date, IOM estimates that over half a million migrants and refugees have crossed the Mediterranean in 2015, with **2,887 recorded deaths**. For the Central Mediterranean Route, the main departure country is Libya, where several rescue operations have had to be carried out. In September, **21 rescue operations** were carried out in just one day, mainly by EU navy ships operating in the Mediterranean Sea off the Libyan coast. Within 24 hours, more than **4,500 migrants and refugees** from nine boats and 12 dinghies were rescued. Just a few days later, the Libyan Naval Coast Guard rescued 346 migrants and refugees, among them were 100 women and children, who were crammed onto rubber boats by their smugglers.

In response to the high numbers of migrants and refugees being rescued at sea, 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.



Migrants rescued at sea waiting in a hospital in Tripoli for treatment.
© IOM Tripoli, 2015

IOM also provides **assistance to victims of trafficking** who are found in migrant retention 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 provides humanitarian assistance, including **psychosocial and health support**, as well as **voluntary return services**, to these victims.

IOM RESPONSE

Libya (continued)

In September, IOM organized a **three-day training** for Libyan NGOs and representatives from the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration in Tunis, Tunisia. The training focussed on three areas: enhancing the response to human trafficking; performing vulnerability assessments; and, providing assisted voluntary return for trafficked migrants in retention centres.

Niger

The dangerous and often fatal crossing of the Mediterranean is just one of the many risks migrants face along their journey. Along migratory routes, migrants cross deserts and are often detained in deplorable conditions, may face xenophobia, and are subjected to violence and abuse by migrant smugglers or human traffickers. In view of the high numbers of persons travelling through countries such as Niger and Libya to Europe, it is imperative to provide assistance and protection to migrants in transit countries.

To support government efforts to respond effectively to complex migration flows and strengthen protection measure, IOM has developed the **Migration Response and Resource Mechanism (MRRM)**, which has now entered into its **first pilot phase in Niger**. The MRRM provides operational support to government authorities by addressing complex migration flows, facilitating the **identification and registration of migrants**, and supporting **data collection** to feed into evidence-based policy and programming. MRRM also provides **direct assistance and support services** that are tailored to address particular vulnerabilities that have been identified, such as those of unaccompanied migrant children, migrants vulnerable to trafficking and abuse, migrants with health and psychosocial needs, as well as persons in need of international refugee protection, in partnership with national authorities and UNHCR.

MRRM provides **information and awareness-raising** on the risks of irregular migration (including trafficking in persons), the available channels for legal migration, as well as rights and obligations of both States and migrants. MRRM also supports the identification of **alternatives to high risk irregular migration** and support longer term solutions including legal migration or Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration to countries of origin.

Through the MRRM in Niger, IOM has **identified and referred 10 potential asylum seekers** to UNHCR. Once these cases are identified, IOM organizes the transportation to Niamey where asylum seekers have access to resources managed by UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior for the Refugee Status Determination. For unaccompanied children, IOM liaises with local judges for necessary travel authorizations and family tracing is done in collaboration with IOM in countries of origins and NGO partners.

Pilot **return and reintegration projects** have also been launched in four target countries: Senegal, Gambia, Mali and Nigeria, for about 900 migrants returning to their country of origin from Niger. Alternative options will be proposed to migrants transiting in Niger to Libya and then Europe. With the support and in coordination with local governments in all targeted countries, **vocational trainings, micro-finance projects, public-private-partnerships**, along with other initiatives will be identified and promoted among migrants starting from Agadez.



IOM is one of the main technical partners of the Ministry of Justice and its national agency against the smuggling and trafficking of persons, "l'Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes" (ANLTP). The anti-trafficking work plan is being implemented and IOM is **contributing with capacity building activities** for magistrates, civil society and other key actors concerned by anti-trafficking initiatives. To date, four trainings with 138 participants have been organized. IOM is also planning the **establishment of the first state-shelter** for victims of trafficking (VoT) in the region of Zinder, one of the main areas affected by the high presence of VoTs. The shelter will be operational by the first quarter of 2016.

Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

In response to the current migration flows, IOM has **launched an online portal** of trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

MIGRATION FLOWS - EUROPE International Organization for Migration - IOM

International Organization for Migration

Recent trends | **Transit routes** | Internally displaced and refugees | Migrant deaths | Office Network | Iraq & Syria

In 2015, **541,297 people** have been travelling to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East, by land (yellow), sea (blue) or plane (red).

Click on the yellow path for more information on the number of people that have been using the road since the beginning of 2015 (until 31 August 2015).

Migrant Routes: Mediterranean 2015

The green circles indicate the number and country of origin for people that were reported as arriving in Europe since earlier this year.

Click on the green circles for more information
(Source: national authorities, IOM)

Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

Movement Trends and Numbers

ARRIVALS

Italy 131,431

Estimate arrivals as of 2 October
Source: IOM

Greece 399,236

Estimate arrivals from land and sea
as of 2 October
Source: IOM

Macedonia 102,753

People registered between June to
28 September
Source: Government

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

Croatia 110,641

Estimate arrivals as of 4 October
Source: Government

Slovenia 4,338

Initial estimate as of 30 Sept 2015.
Source: Government

Serbia 173,891

Estimate arrivals as of 28 Sept
Source: IOM

Spain 2,819

Estimate arrivals as of 2 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 5 October 2015
sources: IOM • feedback: prd@iom.int

