



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 22 September 2016



Highlights

IOM staff helping rescued migrants and refugees off a boat in Küçükkuyu. © IOM Turkey, 2016

■ **GREECE:** IOM has completed the installation of communication containers in six sites/camps where IOM has permanent presence (three in Attica and three in Northern Greece). The containers will help facilitate on-line communication between migrants and refugees, and their family members living elsewhere.

■ **TURKEY:** During the reporting period, IOM assisted the Turkish Coast Guard by providing food, water, and non-food items to a total of 1,018 rescued migrants and refugees.

■ **FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA:** IOM has completed work on the septic system at the Tabanovce transit centre near Kumanovo, making the system fully operational, which will greatly improve the living conditions of beneficiaries hosted at the centre.

■ **LIBYA:** On 20 September, IOM facilitated a repatriation charter flight for 159 stranded Burkinabe migrants (including 13 women, 9 children, and four infants) back to Burkina Faso.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 21 September 2016, a total of 317,228 migrants and refugees have arrived in Europe by land and sea routes since the start of 2016.

On 19 September, a large fire swept through Moria's hotspot in Greece, destroying tents and prefabricated homes, and prompted the evacuation of the facility's estimated 4,000 residents. According to the Shipping and Island Policy Minister, a vessel will be sent out immediately to Lesbos to temporarily host the migrants and refugees until the hotspot becomes fully operational again.

In Serbia, an estimated 4,900 refugees and migrants remain in the country, out of which approximately 46 per cent are men, 16 per cent are women, and 38 per cent are children. The majority are coming from Afghanistan (44 per cent), Syria (21 per cent), and Iraq (nine per cent).

On 16 September, the Italian Navy rescued 654 migrants off the coast of Augusta. The majority of migrants were from Mali, Gambia and Guinea. On 21 September, a record high number of search and rescue operations took place when a shipwreck in the Channel of Sicily required Italian navy ships to rescue more than 6,000 migrants.

As of 20 September, the Turkish Coast Guard has rescued 30,866 migrants and refugees since the start of the year.

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey

IOM continues to support the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) by distributing food, water, and non-food items (NFIs) to migrants and refugees rescued at sea. During the reporting period, In Dikili (one of the points in İzmir for irregular migrants and refugees crossing to Lesbos, Greece) IOM assisted the TCG by providing food, water, NFI (including clothing and shoes) and hygiene kits for 516 rescued migrants and refugees. The majority of those rescued at sea in Dikili came from Afghanistan.

In Çeşme (one of the points in İzmir for irregular migrants and refugees crossing to Chios, Greece), the IOM field team provided food, water and NFIs to 308 rescued migrants and refugees, the majority of whom were also from Syria. Furthermore, in Küçükkuşu (a point in Çanakkale province where irregular migrants and refugees cross to Mytilene, Greece), IOM distributed food, water, and NFIs to 194 rescued migrants and refugees, the majority of whom are Syrian or Afghan.



IOM staff providing recreational activities to migrant and refugee children as they wait in Çeşme. © IOM Turkey 2016

IOM social workers in Dikili and Çeşme continue to identify and refer vulnerable migrants and refugees rescued at sea to relevant authorities and institutions. During the reporting period, IOM identified 39 vulnerable migrants and refugees who were rescued at sea and referred them to the non-governmental organizational ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants) who then follow up their situation while they are in Turkey.

With funding from the US Association for International Migration (USAIM), IOM was able to procure a total of 900 pairs of shoes to be distributed to rescued migrants and refugees in Çeşme (300), Dikili (300), and Küçükkuşu (300). Additionally, IOM plans to procure 800 units of clothes that will be distributed to migrants and refugees rescued at sea.

IOM, in coordination with the Bornova Altındağ Migrant Health Centre in İzmir, provided 41 packages of baby diapers for refugee children getting health services at the centre, as well as 14 packages of adult briefs for those who are bedridden.

With funding from the European Commission-Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), and as requested by Médecins du Monde, IOM has helped transport 41 Syrians from Torbali and İzmir centres to public health clinics for vaccination and primary health services.

Greece

On 21 September, the Alternate Citizens Protection Minister, Nikos Toskas, together with the Secretary of State for Migration, Tzanetos Fillipakos, and IOM Greece's Chief of Mission, visited the new centre in Amygdaleza that is temporarily hosting migrant families wishing to voluntarily return to their home country. The families have been registered through IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return programme. IOM supported the centre's construction by helping to provide door locks, purchasing and installing playground material, installing a child protection fence, constructing two rest areas, purchasing benches, as well as providing and installing air conditioning. The new centre is able to accommodate up to 158 people.



IOM organizes creative activities for beneficiaries hosted at Oinofyta camp. © IOM Greece 2016

As part of IOM's support to the government's new education plan for migrant and refugee children, IOM is purchasing 10,200 school kits to be distributed to children residing in the camps and sites for migrants and refugees. As the children will attend afternoon classes, IOM's assistance will also include transportation and escort to/from public schools in nearby municipalities for children residing in sites on the mainland.

IOM has completed the installation of communication containers in six sites/camps where IOM has permanent presence (three in Attica and three in Northern Greece). IOM provided all communication containers with electronic equipment, including laptops, web cameras, and internet connection, to help facilitate on-line communication between migrants and refugees, and their family members living elsewhere. The communication service is supported by IT specialists and site managers in order to ensure continued operations at these communication containers.

IOM continues to provide AVR services and extensive information campaigns at open facilities in the mainland and islands where the majority of the stranded migrants are accommodated. Since the start of the year, IOM has assisted 4,610 migrants. The total included 57 unaccompanied minors and 33 medical cases.

As of 21 September, IOM has provided 4,140 beneficiaries (including 63 unaccompanied minors) with relocation assistance 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.

Serbia

IOM teams continue to provide counselling on assisted voluntary return (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. During the reporting period, a total of 581 migrants and refugees were provided transport assistance.

Since mid-February 2016, IOM has provided AVR assistance to a total of 56 beneficiaries. The majority of these beneficiaries were returned to Iran (17), Morocco (16), Iraq (10), and Algeria (5). 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

With support from the Council of Europe Development Bank

-Migrant and Refugee Fund (CEB MRF), IOM has completed work on the septic system at the Tabanovce transit centre near Kumanovo, making the system fully operational. As the transit centre hosts a number of people, most of whom are families with small children and pregnant women, the completion of the system will greatly improve their living conditions while at the transit centre. Furthermore, with the approach of the winter season, IOM is working on installing new roof tops at the transit centre in Gevgelija.

IOM has two mobile teams in the Tabanovce 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.



Field visit to Vinojug Reception Centre by Head of the EU delegation in Skopje.
© IOM Skopje 2016

On 16 September, the Head of the EU delegation in Skopje, Samuel Zbogar, visited the country's southern border and the Vinojug Reception Centre for migrants and refugees. During the visit, he met with representatives from IOM Skopje who advised him on the situation in the camp as well as at the southern border.

Croatia

On 31 August, IOM completed its project funded under the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), which included the language and cultural orientation classes. In order to close out the project, a final set of activities that will include community work and stakeholder capacity building is being planned by IOM.

Slovenia

In order to kick off the new regional Re-Health program, IOM held a three-day training for health mediators from 20-22 September in Ljubljana. The training topics included: code of ethics and tasks of health mediators; working with unaccompanied minors and age assessment; cultural diversities in health perception; mental health and psychosocial support; and conflict mediation.

Italy

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

On 6 September, IOM organized its first humanitarian repatriation charter flight from southern Libya, flying 171 stranded Nigerian migrants (including 76 women and 39 children) back to Niger. The flight departed from Taminhint Airport – 30 kilometres from Sabha and 750 kilometres south of Tripoli – and arrived in Niamey, Niger in the evening. The repatriation was done in close coordination with the Embassy of the Republic of Niger in Tripoli and the Consulate of Niger in Sabha, the municipal council in Sabha, the Libyan Red Crescent in Sabha, and the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration, with funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

On 20 September, IOM facilitated another repatriation charter flight for 159 stranded Burkinabe migrants (including 13 women, 9 children, and four infants) back to Burkina Faso. Upon arrival, all migrants received cash grants to assist

with their onward travel to their respective communities. Twenty of the most vulnerable migrants were also provided with reintegration assistance. Funds for this charter were provided by the European Union.



IOM organized a humanitarian repatriation charter flight for stranded Nigerian migrants back to Niger © IOM Libya 2016

From 9-20 September, IOM with the support of its implementing partners, Assalam Organization, Multakana Centre, and the Libyan Red Crescent, distributed non-food items and hygiene kits to a total of 1,975 vulnerable migrants accommodated at five detention centres across Libya.

IOM Libya released its second Flow Monitoring Report on 15 September. The report provides analysis from data captured through 3,324 migrants transiting across 14 flow monitoring points in Libya between the period of 15 August and 5 September. The majority of migrants were coming from Egypt, Sudan and Chad, and reported that their countries of intended destination was either Libya, Italy, or France. The full report can be found [here](#).

From 21-22 September, IOM in cooperation with UNHCR, coordinated a regional workshop on “Strengthening Protection at Sea in the Southern Mediterranean Sea Region” in Tunisia. The purpose of the workshop was to address the security and humanitarian challenges of migrants at sea, as well as to examine evolving practices and issues around detection, search and rescue, and subsequent delivery to places of safety for migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

Niger

During the reporting period, 70 new migrants requesting voluntary return were registered in the IOM transit centres, while 278 migrants were provided with shelter, food, and medical and psychosocial support services. Furthermore, IOM provided 184 migrants with return assistance to their country of origin, the majority of whom were returned to Senegal (53), Cameroon (34), Mali (24), Guinea Bissau (23), and the Ivory Coast (17).

Between 17-18 September the international NGO, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), with the help of IOM, carried out two sensitization events in Niamey. The aim of the events was to inform local communities and migrants in transit on several themes including the risks of irregular migration, the resources available, as well as migrant’s rights and obligations of the states with regard to migrants. The events included a football match, theatre sketches and the projection of short documentary films on migration. The two day event had over 650 participants.

IOM operations are supported by:



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

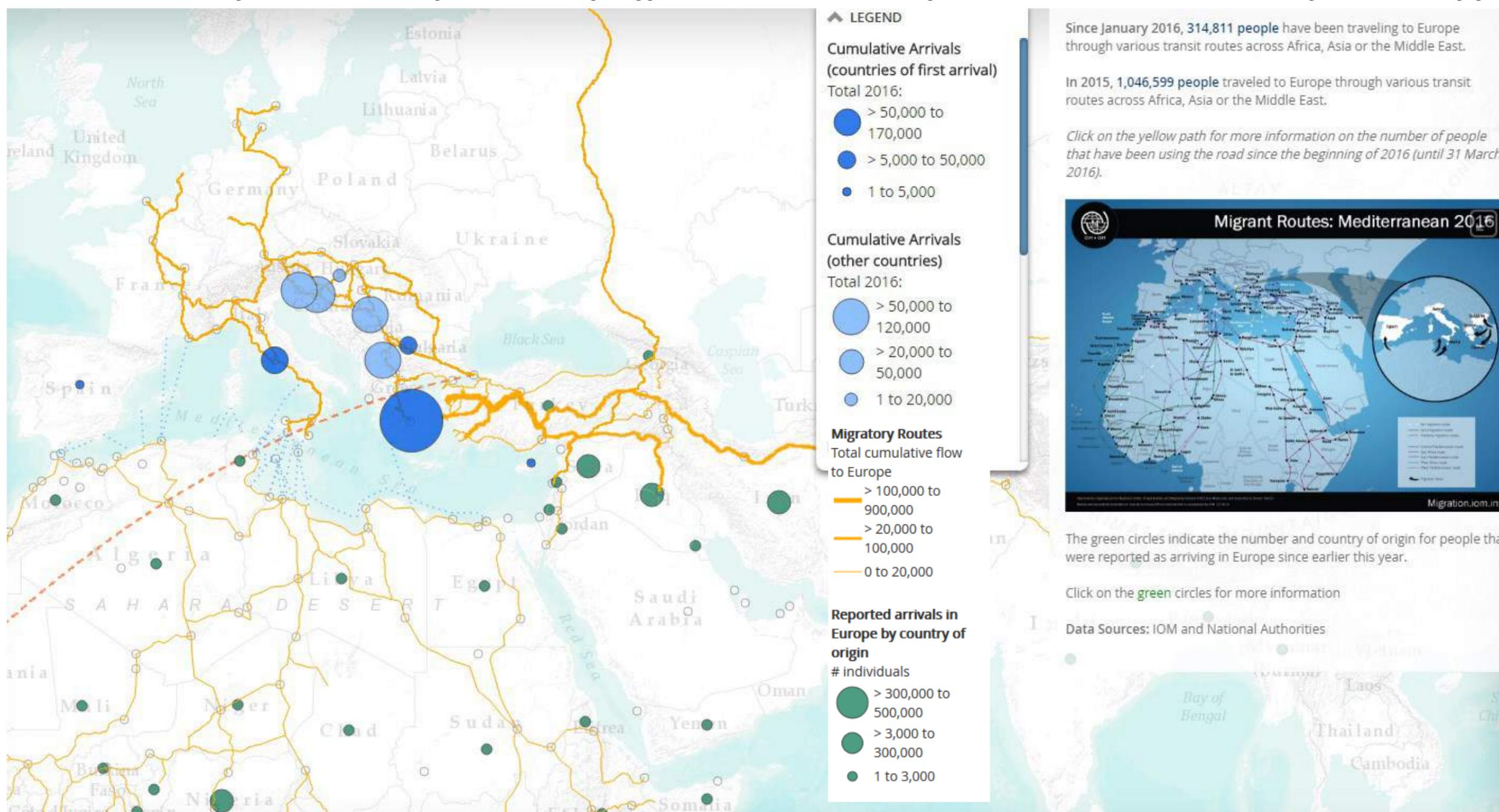
IOM's **online portal** provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the total number of people that travelled to Europe. An updated version of the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

Recent trends in migrant flow

From 07 September to 21 September 2016*

Country	Greece	Bulgaria	Italy	Serbia	Hungary
Registered Arrivals	1,743	1,307	6,328	101	79
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (24 August to 06 September)	Decrease of 15%	Increase of 1%	Decrease of 65%	Decrease of 51%	Increase of 84%

*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 21 September 2016

Greece **60,539**

Estimate stranded migrants as of 21 September
Source: National authorities, IOM and UNHCR

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **194**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 21 September
Source: National authorities

Serbia **3,429**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 21 September
Source: National authorities

Croatia **48**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 24 August
Source: National authorities

Slovenia **309**

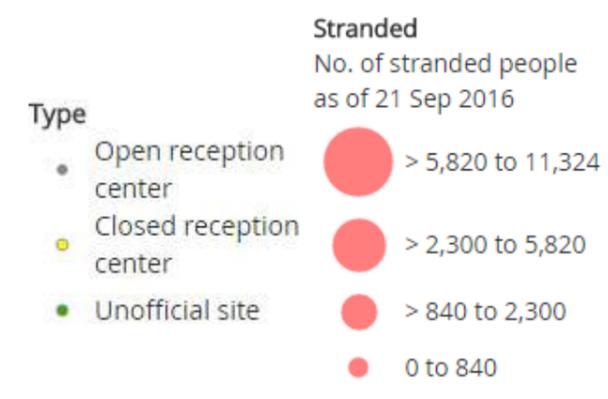
Estimated stranded migrants as of 21 September
Source: National authorities

Hungary **733**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 21 September
Source: IOM and National authorities

Bulgaria **6,582**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 15 September
Source: Government



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

