

Summary of key activities and findings

January – December 2020



Migrants in a reception centre of Gran Canaria, Spain. 2020 / IOM Spain

The DTM Europe team operates out of Vienna, Rome, and Geneva to oversee, coordinate and support DTM activities in Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Western Balkans.¹ In 2020, the DTM Europe team in cooperation with IOM missions and national authorities gathered, processed, and disseminated statistical data on new arrivals to Europe, the locations and occupancies of accommodation centres, and transit flows from approximately 435 entry, exit and transit flow monitoring points. Moreover, the DTM Europe, in coordination with IOM Country Offices in the EEA² and SEECA³ regions, took part in a global exercise rolled out by IOM, to track, map and gather data on restrictive measures imposed after the COVID-19 outbreak through a global Points of Entry (PoE) Baseline Assessment.

All analyses and datasets based on DTM Flow Monitoring data – including *Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean - Compilation of Available Data and Information* reports – were made publicly available on a monthly and quarterly basis throughout the year and are available for download on [DTM Europe Geoportal](#). Additionally, to gain insight into the profile of arriving migrants and their experiences during the journey to Europe, the DTM Mediterranean team carried out 601 Flow Monitoring Surveys with migrants and refugees through a network of 7 data collectors in 35 flow monitoring points located on entry and transit in 6 regions of Italy and Spain.⁴ DTM data has been widely used including by the media, academia, UN agencies and other counterparts to raise awareness, inform public debate and policy, and feed into specialized publication on the topic.

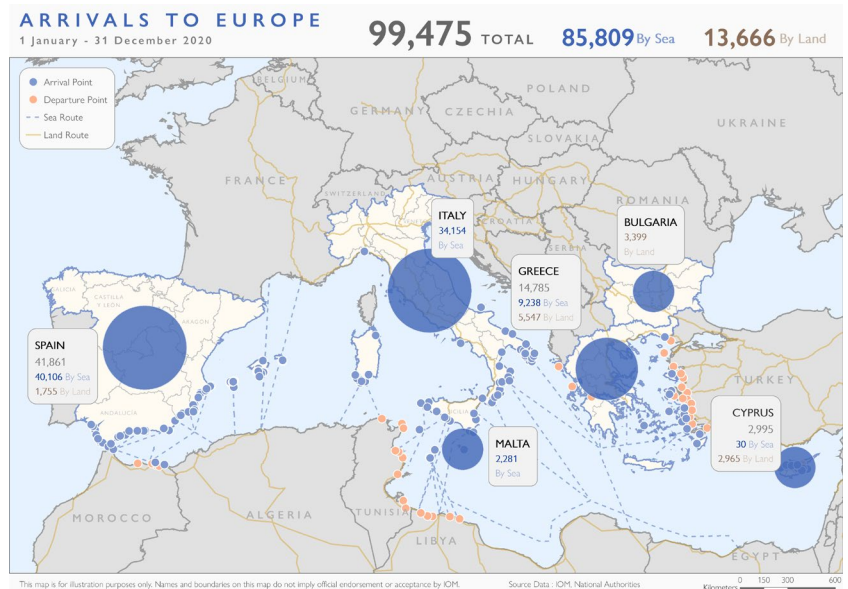
This includes the chapter [Vulnerability to exploitation and abuse along the Mediterranean migration routes to Italy](#) featured in the IOM's [Migration in West and North Africa and across the Mediterranean](#) volume, and the [Refugees and Migrant Children in Europe – Overview of Trends](#), jointly published by IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF and which presents an insight into the profiles and situations of unaccompanied and separated children.

DTM Mediterranean – Overview on first arrival countries

In 2020, a total of 99,475 migrants and refugees arrived in Europe by sea and by land through the Eastern (EMR), Central (CMR) and Western (WMR) Mediterranean routes and through the Western African Atlantic route (WAAR).⁵

This is 23 per cent less than the 128,536 arrivals registered in 2019 and 33 per cent less than the 147,683 of 2018. Arrivals in Q4 of 2020 (37,454) increased by more than 4 times compared to arrivals in Q2 of the same year (8,822). This significant increase coincides with the ease of travel and mobility restrictions previously imposed by authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19 since late February 2020.

In 2020, most (42%) registered individuals arrived in Spain (41,861) either through the WAAR (23,023) or through the WMR (18,838). Another 37 per cent crossed the Central Mediterranean reaching Italy (34,154) or Malta (2,281), while the remaining 21 per cent arrived through the EMR in Greece (14,785), Bulgaria (3,399) and Cyprus (2,965).⁶



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

Source Data: IOM; National Authorities

Kilometers 0 100 200 400

 **4,687 UASC¹¹ arrived in Italy in 2020, 7,080 accommodated as of 31 December**

 **4,027 UASC accommodated by EKKA¹² Greece as of 31 November**

More than 180,000 migrants and asylum seekers accommodated in Italy, Greece and the Western Balkans

 **1,372 deaths recorded in the Mediterranean in 2020 by IOM's Missing Migrant Project**

While Spain recorded the largest share of all arrivals to Europe by the end of 2020, the Central Mediterranean route was the most frequently used in the second and third quarter of 2020, representing 54 and 55 per cent of all registered in Europe then. This changed significantly in Q4 of 2020 (October – December), when arrivals to Spain became more frequent, especially through the Western African Atlantic route to the Canary Islands. Indeed, between October and December 2020 (Q4), arrivals to Spain more than doubled when compared with Q3 (July – September 2020). Arrivals to the Canary Islands alone (23,023) represents over half (55%) of all arrivals registered in Spain in 2020, which is 9 times higher than arrivals registered in the Canary Islands in 2019 (2,694). Furthermore, the number of individuals crossing the Eastern Mediterranean Route dropped by 74 per cent from 81,147 individuals in 2019 to 21,149 in 2020.⁷

According to the available data from

national authorities⁸, Tunisia was the most frequent nationality arriving to Europe⁹ in 2020 with most of them being registered in Italy (99%). The second reported country of origin was Algeria with majority of them being registered in Spain (80%) and Italy (20%), followed by Bangladesh (93% in Italy, 6% in Malta, 1% in Spain), Afghanistan (76% in Greece and 24% in Italy) and Morocco (70% in Spain, 27% in Italy, 3% in Malta).

At the end of 2020, an estimated 160,215 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were residing in different reception facilities in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, and Italy.¹⁰ These were 18 per cent less than the 195,380 at the end of 2019.

Overview DTM Western Balkans

The number of migrants and refugees transiting through the Western Balkans¹³ decreased slightly in 2020 compared to 2019. In 2020, a total of 113,927 migrants and refugees were registered in the Western Balkan region, which is 2 per cent less than the 116,104 migrants registered in 2019. Despite the overall decrease in registered arrivals in Greece and Bulgaria, intensified movements in the Western Balkans have been observed throughout 2020. Arrivals in Serbia more than doubled in 2020 from 17,611 to 39,648 between 2019 and 2020 (+125%). Similarly, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, and Kosovo¹⁴ registered a higher number of migrants compared to 2019: Croatia (48%), Albania (18%), Slovenia (12%) and Kosovo (47%).¹⁵

On the other hand, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia registered substantial decreases in 2020 compared to 2019: North

Macedonia (-73%), Montenegro (-67%), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (-45%). Afghanistan was the most frequently reported nationality of migrants¹⁶ transiting through the Western Balkans in 2020, with most of them being registered in Croatia (34%), Serbia (21%), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (18%). The second national group was Pakistan mostly registered in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia, followed by nationals from the Syrian Arab Republic, mostly registered in Serbia, Croatia, and Kosovo.¹⁷

As at the end of December of 2020 an estimated 19,429 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were residing in different reception facilities in the Western Balkan region. The total estimated number at the end of December 2020 is 23 per cent more than the 15,783 recorded at the end of December 2019. The largest share (55%) of registered migrants was accommodated in Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by Serbia (41%).

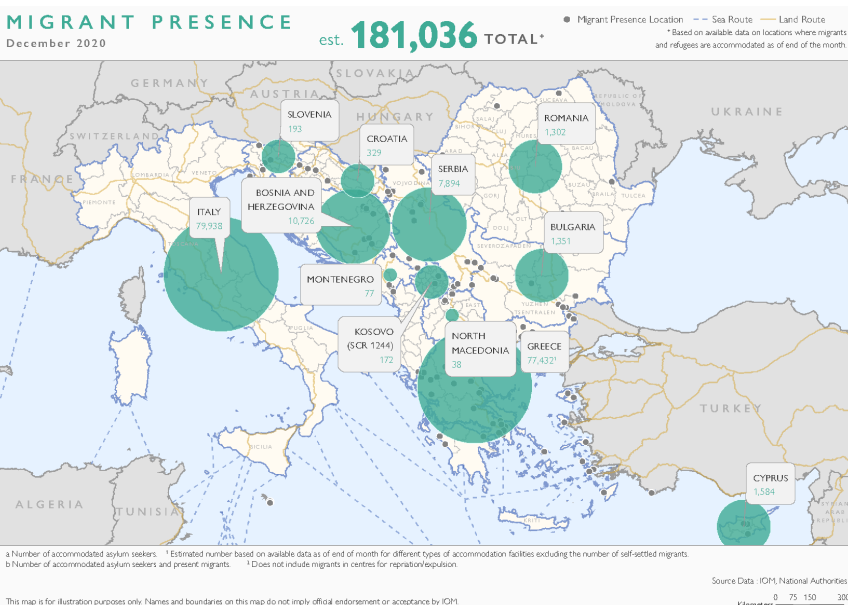
Turkey

According to the latest available data from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), there were more than 4.5 million foreign nationals present in the Turkish territory at the end of 2020, 3.6 million of whom were seeking international protection. Most of them (3,643,379) were Syrian nationals, followed by nationals of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iraq.

A total of 21,353 irregular migrants were intercepted on entry by land to Turkey in Q4 of 2020, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic (99%), Greece (274 individuals), the Islamic Republic of Iran (75 individuals) and Iraq (50 individuals), according to the data from Turkish Armed Forces (TAF).

This is almost 3 times the number of apprehensions registered in Q3 of 2020 (6,595), and more than 2 times less than the 34,977 reported in Q4 2019. Available data from the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) denotes that there were 7 Temporary Accommodation Centres for persons under temporary protection (Syrian nationals mainly) located in 5 cities in Turkey – Kilis, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Osmaniye, and Adana.

According to the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) statistics, a total population of 58,752 were residing in the Temporary



Accommodation Centers (TACs) at the end of December 2020, which is only a slight decrease of 7 per cent compared to the 63,443 registered at the end of December 2019.

Ukraine

According to the information from the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) of Ukraine, in July 2020 (last available data) there were 1,448,615 internally displaced persons (IDPs), that is individuals who have left their homes and moved to a different area and/or region of Ukraine. The total at the end of 2020 shows a slight increase compared to the 1,446,881 reported in the previous reporting period, at the end of April 2020. Data from the authorities includes returnees and commuters, as the entitlement to a pension for those residing in the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) is linked to the IDP status.

Areas with the highest shares of IDPs located further away from the mentioned oblasts included the city of Kyiv (160,036) and Kyiv Oblast (63,267), Kharkiv Oblast (134,335), Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (71,277) and Zaporizhia Oblast (56,107).

Central Asia

As part of the Sub-Regional Appeal for Central Asia, funding has been allocated by the Swiss Agency For Development And Cooperation (SDC) for the initiative "Mitigating Socioeconomic Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrants and Communities in Central Asia and the Russian Federation". The first of the three objectives of this initiative is to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data for evidence-based policies (which is indirectly linked to GCM Objective 1).

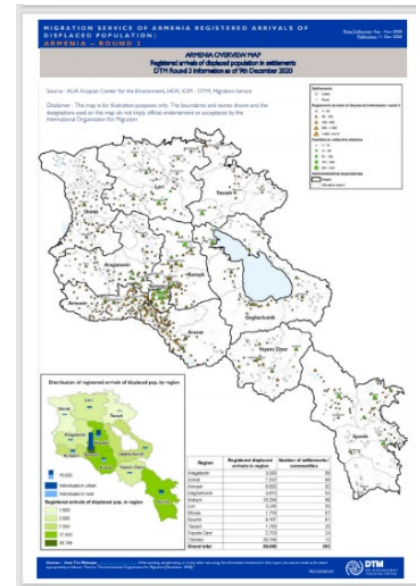
The data collection involved surveys with returnees and stranded migrants in four countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and the Russian Federation) and it was completed with total of 3,300 surveys collected by a network of 60 data collectors, which were initiated in 2020.

Armenia

As a result, of the latest armed conflict in Nagorno Karabakh (27th September 2020), a significant number of persons were displaced on the territory of the Republic of Armenia. Subsequently, several efforts have been made by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the international community to identify the locations of the displaced population and assess their needs through the process of registration and targeted needs assessments. In this endeavour an Information Management Working Group led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office jointly with UNHCR and with the active participation of IOM has been set up to coordinate the needs assessment efforts. As part of this working group, a Multi Sector Needs Assessment has been rolled out in seven selected regions of Armenia.

In the meantime, through its longstanding cooperation with the Migration Service, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, IOM has received requests for support in the analysis of the displaced population registration data. Three rounds of mapping of the displaced population in Armenia (estimated at 90,000) have been carried out in 2020.

The data sets and reports can be found at [Armenia | Displacement \(iom.int\)](https://www.iom.int/Armenia-Displacement). The latest update on registration data from the Migration Service of Armenia as of 9 December 2020 indicate that 90,640 spontaneous arrivals are scattered across 593 settlements and communities. Currently, 74 per cent of spontaneous arrivals are hosted in urban settlements, while 26 per cent are hosted in rural settlements. 39 per cent of the displaced population have been registered in Yerevan, 18 per cent in Kotayk, and 9 per cent in Syunik.



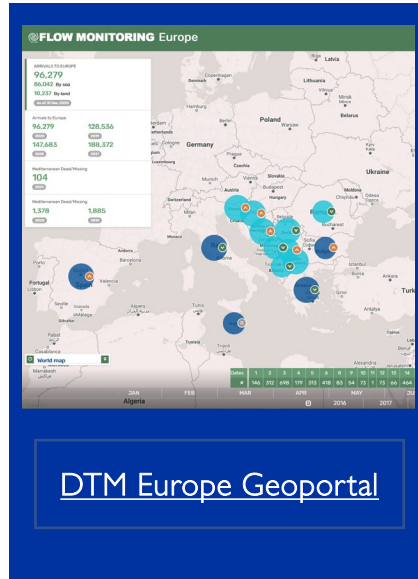
Surveys on returnees and stranded migrants in Central Asia conducted in 2020

Country	Target population	Number of interviews	Geographical focus	Number of enumerators
Kazakhstan	Stranded migrants	720	12/12 regions	12
Kyrgyzstan	Returnees	853	Osh and Bishkek	20
Tajikistan	Returnees	857	4/4 Regions with lowest level stratification	14
Russian Federation	Stranded migrants	900	Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg	14
Total		3,330		60

Points of Entry (PoE)

The outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global and regional mobility in the form of various travel disruptions, restrictions, and blockages. To better understand how COVID-19 affects global mobility, IOM has developed a global mobility database to gather, map and track data on the imposed restrictive measures impacting human mobility, at Global, Regional and Country level. Subsequently, IOM has initiated the following Mobility Restriction Mapping including the COVID-19 Country Points of Entry (PoE) Status Baseline Assessment. The PoE Baseline Assessment activities collect updates on mobility restrictions imposed at location level (airport, land border points, blue border points, and internal transit points). For each point of entry, data is collected on type of restriction, measures applied, and population category that might be affected from the imposed measures.

By March 2020, when the global Baseline Assessment was rolled out, a total of 850 PoEs were assessed in 19 countries/territories/areas in the SEECA region, and 803 additional PoEs were assessed in 30 countries/territories/areas in the EEA region. IOM Country Offices cross regions contributed regularly with inputs. Throughout 2020 the DTM Europe in cooperation with IOM's Country Offices in the SEECA and the EEA regions disseminated statistical reports on operational status of the assessed PoEs including mobility restriction imposed at the country level.



The data and the analyses were made publicly available on a monthly basis throughout the year in the [COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact Point of Entry Analysis](#). All published COVID-19 related reports and analysis on the global PoE Baseline Assessment are available for download on the [IOM Migration Portal – COVID-19 Mobility Impacts](#).

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Kosovo (UN SCR 1244).

² European Economic Area

³ South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia

⁴ Data collection in the field was delayed in the second half of 2020 and conducted only in 2 countries due to security and mobility restrictions implemented by different countries over 2020.

⁵ Total does not include data on arrivals to Cyprus for July – December 2020, which are not available at the time of closing this report.

⁶ Data on arrivals to Cyprus are not available for July - December 2020 at the time of closing this report.

⁷ Data on arrivals to Cyprus are not available for July - December 2020 at the time of closing this report.

⁸ Nationality breakdowns for Spain for September – December 2020 is not yet available. The overall nationality breakdown presented in this report is therefore not final but can give an indication of nationality trends observed in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain. Nationality data for Bulgaria are not available for 2020.

⁹ Europe refers to Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Spain.

¹⁰ Data on migrants' presence in reception centers in Spain are not available for 2020.

¹¹ Unaccompanied and Separated Children.

¹² Greek National Centre for Social Solidarity – Unaccompanied Children.

¹³ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Kosovo (UN SCR 1244).

¹⁴ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

¹⁵ *ibid*.

¹⁶ Data on nationality is not available for 55 per cent of the migrants transiting through Serbia.

¹⁷ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Information products



[Inter-Agency Children 2020: Europe – Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe](#)



[Europe – Mixed Migration Quarterly \(Q3\) 2020 Report](#)



[COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact Points of Entry Analysis](#)



[Top 5 Nationalities Interviewed In Italy In 2019](#)

DTM Mediterranean is supported by:

