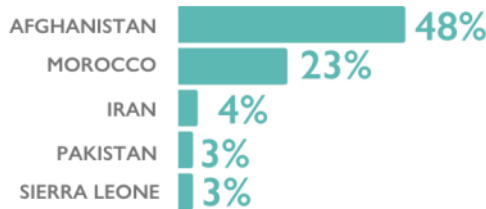


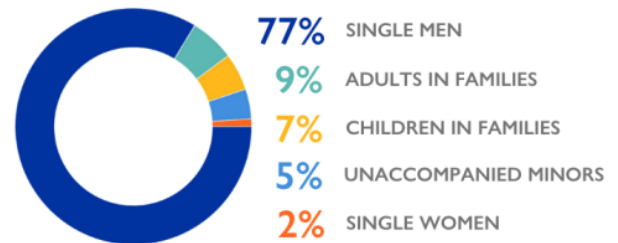
TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	275	580	7
LIPA	783	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	598	1,700	5
UŠIVAK	152	800	9
TOTAL:	1,808	4,592	

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs



SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA



MONTHLY ARRIVALS RECORDED BY THE MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BIH

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
2017	77	66	37	5	22	11	29	60	52	105	76	215	755
2018	237	479	598	1,801	2,242	2,295	2,489	2,293	3,710	5,057	1,931	935	24,067
2019	732	1,117	1,721	2,631	2,603	2,096	4,465	2,913	4,557	3,326	1,925	1,110	29,196
2020	882	2,001	1,540	112	512	1,722	2,194	2,618	1,889	1,087	1,064	529	16,150
2021	670	773	1,269	1,271	1,937	1,855	2,236	1,362	1,591	1,547	704	525	15,740
2022	429	578	907	1,567	1,972	2,214	2,615	2,389	4,640	5,010	1,856	3,252	27,429
2023	1,781	1,460	1,960	2,065	2,893	2,772	3,967	3,542	4,734	3,212			28,386

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 18 October, in Banja Luka, IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) presented the achievements of the project "Response to mixed migration flows in the Western Balkans" funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway. Through the project, effective collaboration was established with authorities in Republika Srpska to support host communities to address the challenges related to migration and pave the way for more long-term, sustainable solutions to migration management. In his address, Sandstad Stefan Almehagen, Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in BiH announced the extension of the project for the next two years.

On 24 October, IOM BiH Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team organized a sub-regional meeting in Skopje to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing on mixed migratory flows in the Türkiye – Western Balkan route. Representatives of the BiH Service of Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) met with regional counterparts and discussed ways to deepen collaboration around data collection and sharing. IOM presented the preliminary findings of the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) report, one of the largest quantitative survey

aggregating data on the profiles, experiences, needs and intentions of over 1,000 migrants surveyed in the region in the summer of 2023.



PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF THE PROJECT "RESPONSE TO MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS".
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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 16 and 29 October, IOM recorded a total of 2,891 people, including newly registered and those previously registered who returned for assistance, who arrived in four temporary reception centres. This represents a decrease of 33,5 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (2-15 October 2023). There were also 3,284 new departures, which represents a 29.4 per cent decrease.

While reception capacities in the country are sufficient to accommodate people on the move, the rapid turnover observed in the recent months puts pressure on the response systems. IOM's teams work tirelessly to ensure adequate reception and accommodation conditions and coordinates contingency planning with the SFA and partner organizations to ensure uninterrupted assistance, and sufficient stocks of Non-Food Items. In Una Sana Canton, IOM holds monthly coordination meetings with state and cantonal stakeholders and authorities including the Red Cross, the Border Police, the cantonal Ministry of Internal Affairs and the SFA representatives to agree on contingency measures and discuss scaling up the response measure in case of a large arrival of migrants.

In TRC Lipa, IOM and the SFA introduced preventive measures in cooperation with the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPT) to reduce security risks and enable efficient provision of services in the centre which has seen more rapid turnover and increased number of accommodated people in September and October 2023. More specifically, food distribution was reorganized to prevent long waiting queues and reduce the concentration of large groups of people in one place.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM in coordination with the SFA admitted 46 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), and 14 family members following the coordinated relocation from TRC Blažuj to TRC Ušivak. The admission process was also carried out in coordination with World Vision regarding the legal guardian's support for UASC.

of new arrivals: **2,891**

of emergency screenings in TRCs: **1,823**

of persons with protection risks and needs: **509**

of individual assistance: **223**

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 16 and 29 October, IOM facilitated a total of 1,823 emergency screenings, through which 509 persons with protection needs were identified. IOM provided individual assistance, including interpretation and logistical support (such as orientation at the TRCs, provision of documents) to 223 persons while 1,804 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

In addition to providing dignified living conditions in TRCs, IOM promotes the principles of Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) in all its activities. Information-sharing and transparency is particularly important to ensure access to up-to-date information on available services in the centres immediately upon arrival. IOM launched new information sharing tools and redesigned the existing ones in all reception centres, including audio announcements, QR codes, leaflets, placards, new info boards, info screens, and face to face groups. IOM also holds weekly information meetings in coordination with partner organizations, to present the services available and receive feedback from people assisted and organizes creative workshops for migrants in all reception centres to foster participation and build resilience through social engagement.

In TRC Lipa, IOM organized a session for newly arrived beneficiaries on 16 October with the participation of seven migrants from Pakistan (five) and India (two) on information sharing tools and available social activities. Participants suggested placing more directional signs in residential areas, as the centre spreads over a large area, and newly arrived people would find it useful for their easier orientation in the centre.

In TRC Ušivak IOM organized three creative workshops in the No Nation Fashion (NNF) Studio, giving migrants the opportunity to express their creativity while exploring acrylic painting, jewelry making and textile dyeing techniques. IOM's mobile team provided transport for 11 children accommodated in Ušivak to the local health centre for medical check-up which is part of the obligatory school enrolment procedure.

In TRC Blažuj, around 200 migrants from Afghanistan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria, and Iran participated in activities including sewing, clothes resizing, knitting, artwork, and dancing. The primary aim of these activities was to foster a sense of community and alleviate stress among the migrants residing in the centre.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION LINES IN TRC LIPA.
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CREATIVE WORKSHOP IN TRC UŠIVAK.
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SHELTER, WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM's maintenance and cleaning team inspects all TRC installations daily, with two cleanings per day, weekly disinfection, disinfestation, and derating measures, and regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

In TRC Ušivak and TRC Blažuj new mattresses and bunk beds were installed in accommodation units to maintain the hygiene and shelter conditions in the centres. In TRC Ušivak, IOM's Maintenance team carried out the replacement of 16 old showers and faucets in sanitary zones to improve conditions and ensure comfort for beneficiaries.

Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) services in TRC Ušivak were used by 101 beneficiaries, 79 mothers and 45 children (23 female and 22 male). Regular cleaning of MBWU premises and the area around the unit was conducted daily.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 1,808

of laundry services: 2,634



DELIVERY OF NEW MATTRESSES IN TRC UŠIVAK.
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FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM conducted its regular food and Non-Food Items (NFI) distribution activities with partner organizations such as the Red Cross and Pomozi.ba.

During the reporting period, a total of 70,789 meals and 17,813 NFIs were distributed.

The high turnover of migrants requires additional efforts for IOM to ensure that all migrants receive NFI immediately upon reception. In addition to the established working hours for the regular distribution of NFI, NFI - hygiene packages and bedding were available 24 hours a day for newly arrived migrants so that basic hygiene needs are provided to migrants right upon arrival.

of meals distributed: 70,789

of NFIs distributed: 17,813

complementary baby food distributed: 710

ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

IOM has mobile teams that are present at locations outside of TRCs to increase access to information and services for migrants staying outside of formal reception facilities, with the aim to reduce the number of migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings.

During the reporting period, IOM's mobile teams provided 85 transportation services mainly to reception centres for 318 migrants and conducted 712 general information sessions.

Afghanistan (43 %) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Morocco (20%), Pakistan (10 %), Nepal (7%), Iran, Syrian Arab Republic, Mongolia, Türkiye (3% each), Iraq and Bangladesh (2% each), China, Sri Lanka, Algeria (1% each), Comoros, Gambia, India, Somalia (less than 1 % each).

of persons transported: 318

of information sessions: 712

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

IOM provides administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance to migrants who decide to voluntarily return to their country of origin.

Between 16 and 29 October, the team reached 482 migrants of which 276 in reception centres and 206 migrants in other locations off-site – through information sessions on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR). The outreach activities are implemented in distant regions within Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Una-Sana cantons, with the objective to reach as many migrants as possible and provide information about AVRR, but also guarantee the swift directing of migrants to protection services. AVRR field personnel continue to observe a noteworthy rotation of migrants both within and outside reception facilities, coupled with an influx of Moroccan nationals.

A total of 196 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival.

Two persons returned to their country of origin (1 Algeria, 1 Jordan), while 14 others applied for AVRR and their return preparations are currently in progress.

AVRR counsellors regularly participate in legal information sessions organized together with IOM Protection and Vaša prava teams for migrants accommodated in TRCs Blažuj, Ušivak, Lipa and Borići. At these sessions AVRR team provides to migrants additional information about their rights, key details of AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to country of origin.

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,386 (M1,222, F164)

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 62 (M56, F6)

From Iraq to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Amir* lost his sight when he was young. Because of his disability his journey to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was paved with difficulties. He and his family made a first stop in Greece, in one of the reception centers. As the center was not adapted for persons with disabilities they were forced to leave. Later, they stayed in various reception centers in Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Every time, they had to leave the center as the accommodation units and services were not adapted to Amir's needs.

In BiH, they found accommodation in the temporary reception center (TRC) Borčić. They were provided with food and non-food items (NFIs), access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The IOM team adapted the accommodation unit for Amir and referred him to the Medical Unit.

After a few days in the reception center, Amir and his family decided to attend one of the information sessions to learn more about legal pathways available in BiH. The session, conducted by IOM and UNHCR implementing partner Vaša Prava, provided them with information on rights, obligations, asylum procedure and assisted voluntary return and reintegration.

*Name was changed to protect privacy.



IOM'S PROTECTION TEAM IN TRC BORČIĆI PROVIDED AMIR WITH A TAILORED ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION ON LEGAL PATHWAYS.
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"It is very hard for people with disabilities to migrate. But the attention of the staff working in the centers is of significant value, as well as the appropriately adjusted accommodation units. I am grateful for all the support that I received here and for the kind hearts of the team working in Borčić." - Amir

