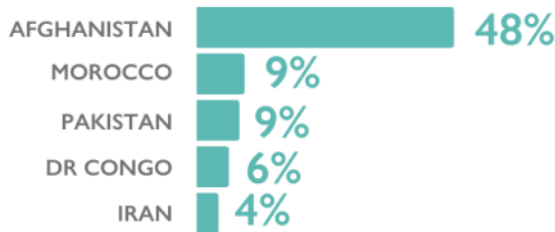
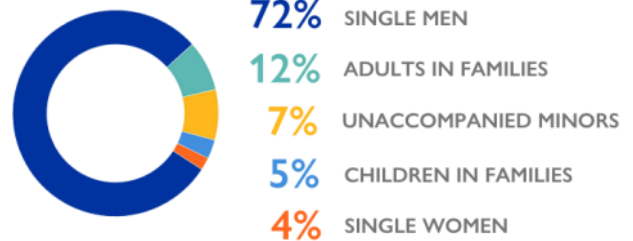


	TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)		
	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	127	580	7
LIPA	195	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	438	1,700	7
UŠIVAK	166	800	9
TOTAL:	926	4,592	

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs



SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA



MONTHLY ARRIVALS RECORDED BY THE MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BIH (LAST UPDATE 2 APRIL 2023)

	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	1,363	1,460	1,960	1,643									6,844

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 18 April 2023, the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Nenad Nešić, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) Director, Žarko Laketa, the Mayor of Bihać, Elvedin Sedić, the UNHCR Representative in BiH, Lucie Gagné, and the IOM Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans and IOM BiH Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti, conducted an official visit to the Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa. Since November 2021, TRC Lipa is under the direct coordination and management of SFA with support from IOM. This management model will be replicated in other TRCs, in line with the strategy to transition towards a state-led migration response.

From 24-27 April, IOM in cooperation with the SFA organized the training "Capacity building on protection-sensitive approaches to working with vulnerable categories", with participation of both IOM mobile teams and SFA officials involved in the mixed migration response. The main goal of the training was to strengthen cooperation between the SFA and IOM in the provision of information and referrals to vulnerable migrants.



OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRE (TRC) LIPA ©IOM 2023

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 17-30 April, IOM recorded a total of 1,724 new arrivals and 2,023 new departures in all reception centres in BiH. The flow of migrants remains intense, with the majority of beneficiaries staying only a few days in the centres.

In TRC Lipa, on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, a special lunch was organized for all the migrants present in the center and the local imam led the Eid prayer. In TRC Borić, IOM, together with World Vision, UNFPA, IPSIA, and SFA organized the Eid celebration with festive food and beverages provided by IOM and IPSIA. In TRC Ušivak, traditional pie was served to enrich the Eid lunch and sweets were distributed to all children. In TRC Blažuj, local traditional dishes were prepared as well as Halva, a sweet treat derived from sesame seed paste.

In TRC Blažuj, an event was organized in collaboration with partner organizations Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Ivan Pavao II and Caritas BiH to mark the Earth Day. As part of the celebration, roses and flowers were planted in recycled bottles. Preparations for this event started a month ago, with the collection of recycled bottles. The event featured music and refreshments and gathered approximately 150 migrants, who participated in a dancing therapy session.

The Public Health Institute representatives visited the four TRCs to carry out monitoring of hygienic and epidemiological measures. The collaboration between the IOM Health Focal Point, the IOM CCCM team and the Public Health Institute aims to ensure that hygiene and epidemiological conditions meet the required standards.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,451

of persons with protection risks and needs: 138

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 17 and 30 April, IOM facilitated a total of 1,451 emergency screenings, through which 138 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 162 persons while 1,340 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

The IOM Protection team took an active role in organizing training sessions for the SFA and IOM Mobile Teams during the “Capacity building on protection sensitive approaches to working with vulnerable categories” event. The IOM Protection team delivered sessions on Protection Mainstreaming Cultural Competencies, First Psychological Aid, Trafficking in Human beings and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

In TRC Ušivak, an embroidery and music workshop was held by the IOM Protection team in coordination with World Vision. Unaccompanied minors participated in the workshop and had the opportunity to get embroidery and guitar lessons.

In TRC Blažuj, to improve the feedback and complaint mechanism, empty folders near complaint box were refilled, and the material was adapted to ensure that the beneficiaries have all to necessary tools to provide feedback.

IOM CCCM teams coordinated the transfer of 62 unaccompanied or separated children from TRC Blažuj to TRC Ušivak during the reporting period. The admission process was carried out in coordination with the SFA and World Vision, where the latter accompanied the children during registration and other services provided by IOM.

of people reached with information sessions: 1,340

of referrals to specialized and non-specialized services: 377



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION IN TRC BLAŽUJ INCLUDING CLEANING, RECYCLING AND GARDENING ACTIVITIES ©IOM 2023



CONDUCT OF A SURVEY ON THE SATISFACTION OF BENEFICIARIES REGARDING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM ©IOM 2023

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 Lipa, an IOM IT assistant was mobilized to identify and address issues in the operation of the Wi-Fi network reported by the SFA in the registration unit. The disruption was quickly fixed enabling the SFA to reduce the delays and provide efficient and effective services.

In TRC Ušivak, Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) services were used by 18 mothers, and 14 children.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 926

of laundry services: 1,727



MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES IN TRC BLAŽUJ ©IOM 2023

FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM conducted its regular food and NFI distribution activities with partner organizations such as the Red Cross and Pomoziba. During the reporting period, a total of 27,942 meals and 17,079 NFIs were distributed.

In TRC Blažuj, in line with the end of the Ramadan fast, meal distribution times have been adjusted. To ensure effective dissemination of the information, the IOM Food Focal Point created posters that were displayed on notice boards throughout the center.

In TRC Borići, IOM initiated another round of cooking workshops in cooperation with the City of Bihać Red Cross. So far, three workshops have been organized with the participation of five migrants, one man from Pakistan and four women from Nepal.

of meals distributed: 27,942

of complimentary baby food distributed: 633

of NFIs distributed: 17,079

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. The mobile teams screen for vulnerabilities, provide emergency assistance, and provide transportation services for migrants to TRCs upon request.

During the reporting period, IOM's mobile teams provided 40 transportation services for 68 migrants and conducted 258 information sessions.

Between 24-30 April, Afghanistan (63%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Pakistan (12%), Democratic Republic of the Congo and Türkiye (each 5%), Nepal and Sri Lanka (4 % each), Palestine (3%), Syrian Arab Republic (2%) and others (1% or below).

of persons transported: 113

of information sessions: 360



ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE MIGRANTS PROVIDED BY IOM MOBILE TEAMS IN COORDINATION WITH THE SFA ©IOM 2023

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

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

Between 17-28 April, IOM reached 360 migrants, of which 155 were in TRCs and 205 migrants in out of site locations, through information sessions on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR). A total of 42 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel and post-arrival.

In the reporting period, one person returned to their country of origin. In collaboration with the Vaša prava and UNHCR, IOM's Protection and AVRR teams continue to regularly organize legal information sessions for migrants accommodated in TRCs. The AVRR team provides additional information on rights, AVRR assistance, and reintegration opportunities to empower migrants with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their voluntary return.

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,348

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 24

IOM Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team

shared Ahmed*'s story

At six years old, Ahmed and his family, his parents and two sisters, left their home in Afghanistan. He grew up in Iran and at 18, he decided to realize his dream of living and working in Europe. After two years working in Türkiye and encountering many difficulties on the road, he finally arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). He fell in love with the country, its people and its culture and decided to apply for asylum.

In order to obtain all the necessary information on the available services, his rights and administrative procedures, Ahmed regularly attended the information sessions conducted by IOM and Vaša Prava at the TRCs. The tailored information sessions and moderated discussions provided him with information on the risks and opportunities associated with irregular migration. In addition, during the information sessions he was able to access information on procedures to regularize his status and access rights, asylum or alternative statuses, as well as assistance and protection services available within and outside TRCs. Based on the information he received about services, Ahmed decided to join local language classes available at the center, as he was eager to learn the language with the hope to one day build a life in BiH.



IOM PROTECTION TEAM PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AHMED
©IOM 2023

In 2022, IOM held 17 interactive Legal Aid Information Sessions. The sessions, which are held in Arabic, Farsi, Pashtu, Urdu and English in all TRCs, aim to provide migrants with information regarding their rights and obligations, including information on asylum procedure and assisted voluntary return and reintegration. The sessions are jointly conducted by the IOM and UNHCR implementing partner Vaša Prava.

*The name has been changed to protect privacy

MAIN GAPS

The mixed migration response in Bosnia and Herzegovina is providing life-saving assistance to migrants, as well as technical capacities to local authorities. IOM and its partners are seeking additional funding to support activities in the area of migrant protection and protection-sensitive reception. Capacity-building also remains a priority to progress towards the overarching goal of ensuring state ownership of the mixed migration response.

