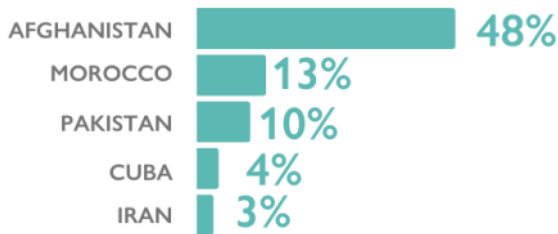


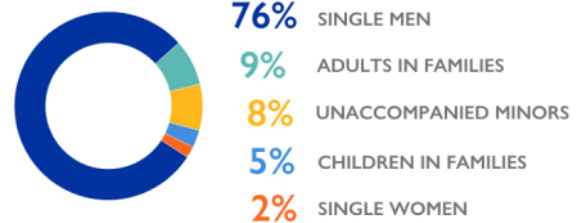
### TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	102	580	7
LIPA	171	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	404	1,700	7
UŠIVAK	145	800	9
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>4,592</b>	

### 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	1,363	1,460	1,960	2,065	357								6,844

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Between 10 - 12 May, IOM organized a Research and Data Capacity Building Training for Western Balkan partners, including representatives of the Service of Foreigner's Affairs (SFA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Data on migration flows in the Western Balkans are essential to understand trends in the number, locations and profiles of migrants in the region, changes in mobility flows and dynamics, and the various risks arising from irregular crossings.

On 9 May, the SFA and IOM accompanied the Ambassador of Norway to BiH, Olav Reinertsen, during a visit to Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Blažuj. The visit showcased the results of the IOM-led regional project Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in the Western Balkans, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through this project, IOM provides protection-sensitive assistance to migrants in transit, ensures access to assisted voluntary return and reintegration, and collects data on mixed migration flows in BiH and the region to inform effective responses and foster regional cooperation.



A RESEARCH AND DATA CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR WESTERN BALKAN PARTNERS.  
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## CONTACTS

Chief of Mission  
Laura Lungarotti, llungarotti@iom.int

Information Management and Reporting  
Programme Support Unit, BIH\_PSU@iom.int

[www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina](http://www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina)

## COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 1 and 14 May, IOM recorded a total of 1,725 new arrivals and 1,968 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 Blažuj, camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) inter-agency bi-weekly meeting between IOM, the SFA and partner organizations focused on joint efforts to eradicate bed bugs in the centre in the forthcoming period. After the completion of bedbug eradication measures conducted by the Public Health Institute (PHI) in half of the accommodation units, migrants were relocated to treated units to complete the measures in the other half of the centre. The relocation process followed a comprehensive procedure to prevent the spread of bedbugs to the new accommodation units, including washing of all items and distributing new non-food items (NFI), mattresses and bedding to the migrants. To prioritize the safety of the young men population, their relocation took place one day earlier than the rest of the center's population. IOM, the SFA and partners will continue to follow the measures issued by the PHI to limit risks of new bedbug infections in the centre.

In TRC Borići, in addition to the regular activities of maintaining the centre's premises, including cleaning and repairs, IOM organized spring maintenance of the outdoor area. The grass surrounding the main plateau, the Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) zone and the access road to the center was mowed. In addition, the damaged part of the fence in the UASC zone was repaired and gravel poured on the driveway.

In TRC Ušivak, a CCCM inter-agency meeting was held on 10 May, with participation of IOM, the SFA and partner organizations. Partners agreed to organize a joint flower planting activity for migrants residing in the centre to celebrate the International Day of Families on 15 May and International Day of Living in Peace on 16 May.

CCCM teams in TRC Blažuj and TRC Ušivak coordinated the transfer of 86 unaccompanied or separated children to TRC Ušivak. The admission process was carried out in coordination with the SFA and World Vision.



SPRING MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES TOOK OFF IN ALL RECEPTION CENTRES. IN TRC UŠIVAK, IOM PREPARED GROUND FOR PLANTING.  
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## PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 1 and 14 May, IOM facilitated a total of 1,014 emergency screenings, through which 142 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 95 persons while 1,352 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

On 9 May, a Protection Mainstreaming training refresher session was held for all members of the USC Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team. The training agenda covered protection mainstreaming, identification and referral pathways, protection team activities, tasks, and assignments, MHPSS and social activities, communication and coordination with partners, and administrative tasks.

In TRC Borići, IOM organized a recreational activity in the centre involving the planting flowers and plants with partner organizations and migrants.

The Cantonal and University Library of Bihac made a contribution to the TRC Borići improvised library with the donation of literary masterpieces, broadening the existing collection significantly and enabling book lovers accommodated in the center to enjoy new books.

The Complaint and Feedback Committee meeting was held on 4 April in TRC Borići with the participation of IOM, partner organizations and two migrant community representatives from Cuba and Afghanistan. Two complaints were found in the complaint/suggestion boxes referring to food, hygiene, and kitchen staples. The committee discussed all complaints and agreed on the next steps and action points to address the concerns.

In TRC Ušivak, on Europe Day on 9 May, IOM organized creative workshops with educational components for children residing at the centre. Through drawing and coloring, the participating children were encouraged to think creatively and learn.

# of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,014

# of persons with protection risks and needs: 142



RECYCLING WORKSHOP FOR MIGRANTS IN TRC BLAŽUJ.  
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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 Borići, the installation of an automatic sliding gate at the main entrance was completed during the reporting period, which together with the upgraded CCTV system has improved security and safety at the centre.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM's maintenance team constructed a bench for outdoor use and relaxation in the family area. Two more benches for this area will be constructed in the upcoming period. The construction included work on cutting and welding iron profiles, cutting wooden bench boards and painting iron profiles with protective coating.

**# of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 822**

**# of laundry services: 1,467**

## 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 Pomozi.ba. During the reporting period, a total of 26,828 meals and 13,067 NFIs were distributed.

During the relocation of migrants to disinfected accommodation units in TRC Blažuj to eradicate the bedbugs from the centre and prevent infections, IOM distributed 241 hygiene kits and 241 clothing packages donated by the humanitarian organisation Islamic Relief. Each clothing package included items such as pyjamas, pants, long-sleeved shirts, slippers, socks, tracksuits, undershirts, underwear, winter boots, and winter jackets. The hygiene kits consisted of towels, hand cream, nail clippers, razors, roll-on deodorant, shampoo, shaving foam, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

**# of meals distributed: 26,828**

**# of complimentary baby food distributed: 357**

**# of NFIs distributed: 13,067**



CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BENCHES IN TRC UŠIVAK  
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## 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 38 transportation services for 109 migrants and conducted 4 psychological first aid (PFA) sessions for 4 migrants and 382 information sessions. Migrants from Republic of Zimbabwe, specifically seven single men, were observed for the first time in Sarajevo canton.

**# of persons transported: 109**

**# of information sessions: 382**

## 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 1 and 14 May, IOM assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) teams provided assistance to 250 migrants, of which 150 were located in reception centres and 100 were in out-of-site locations. Information sessions were conducted to ensure that beneficiaries are well-informed about the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival. Additionally, 120 counselling sessions were held to provide migrants with personalized support.

During the reporting period, IOM supported two persons to return to their country of origin (Pakistan and Jordan).

In collaboration with the NGO Vaša prava, IOM's Protection and AVRR teams regularly organize legal information sessions for migrants accommodated in TRCs. At these sessions, the AVRR team provides additional information about the migrants' rights, key details of AVRR assistance, and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to their country of origin. This aims to empower migrants with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their voluntary return.

To ensure that the mobile team staff fully understands the types of AVRR assistance to be provided during outreach activities and can assist migrants in line with AVRR principles, three on-the-job (OJT) training sessions were held from 8-10 May for IOM mobile teams responsible for implementing outreach activities in Tuzla, Bijeljina, and Zvornik. These trainings were organized under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-funded project Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in the Western Balkans. The objective of these trainings was to encourage mobile team staff to recognize their role and the importance of their engagement in providing information and counselling about AVRR, as well to increase their knowledge and strengthen their capacity to work directly with beneficiaries.

**# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,351**

**# Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 27**



## Mohamed's Story\*

After four years in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Mohamed decided to return to his country of origin with the support of the IOM AVRR program. During his stay in BiH, in a Temporary Reception Center (TRC), IOM provided him with tailored assistance based on his difficult medical condition.

The return procedure was postponed several times so as not to jeopardize Mohamed's health. IOM staff from various teams specializing in health, AVRR, protection and MHPSS collaborated to ensure that Mohamed met all the prerequisites for travel and, with the assistance of IOM's medical and social escort, could safely return to his country of origin. Through pre-departure counselling, Mohamed received up to date information about the situation in his country of origin and potential solutions to ensure a sustainable reintegration. In addition, online consultations were carried out with IOM colleagues in the country of origin who made an assessment of the country's conditions and planned the continuation of the medical treatment upon return.

Finally, IOM will continue to support Mohamed's reintegration in his country of origin and his plans to start a fruits and vegetables business with his brother at the city market.

*\*The name has been changed to protect privacy*



MOHAMED SAFELY RETURNED TO HIS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.  
©IOM 2023

As outlined in IOM's Reintegration Handbook, counselling is a fundamental step for the design, development and implementation of reintegration assistance. Pre-departure reintegration counselling aims to engage and empower returning migrants before departure to the country of origin. The session involves the provision of country-specific information on the type of assistance available upon return, with materials in a language accessible to the migrant, to support a smooth transition back into society.

## 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.



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