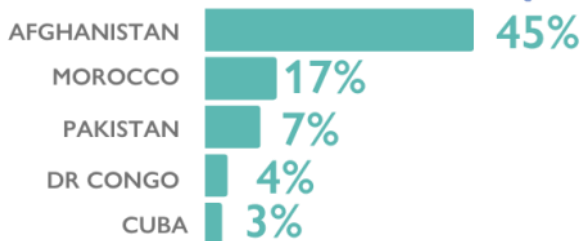


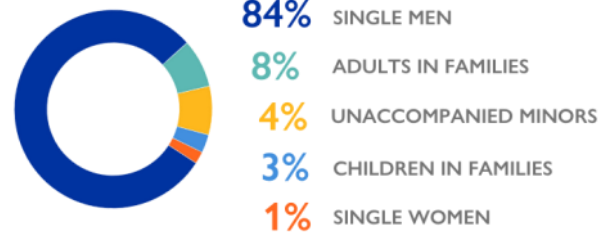
TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	86	580	7
LIPA	171	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	625	1,700	7
UŠIVAK	142	800	9
TOTAL:	1,024	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	1,363	1,460	1,960	2,065	1,604								8,870

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Between 24 and 26 May in Trebinje, IOM participated in a meeting with representatives of the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Ministry of Security (MoS), the Service of Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Delegation of the European Union in BiH on the transition plan for a state-led migration response. IOM and the European Union will continue to ensure technical support, tools, and resources to strengthen state ownership of the migration response.

IOM, in cooperation with UNICEF, organized a study visit for BiH social protection and migration management institutions representatives to Italy. The aim of the visit was to strengthen the capacity of BiH institutions which are directly involved in the protection of unaccompanied or separated children (UASCs). The exchange of experiences with relevant institutions in Italy enabled officials from BiH to strengthen their understanding of good practices in terms of legislation, accommodation capacity management, protection measures and integration practices relevant to UASCs.



MEETING IN TREBINJE ON THE TRANSITION PLAN FOR A STATE-LED MIGRATION RESPONSE ©IOM 2023

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 15 and 28 May, IOM recorded a total of 2,471 new arrivals and 2,354 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.

IOM's camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) teams coordinated the transfer of 32 unaccompanied or separated children from Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Blažuj to TRC Ušivak during the reporting period. The admission process was carried out in coordination with the SFA and World Vision. IOM also coordinated the transfer of eight families from TRC Blažuj to TRC Ušivak during the reporting week. Transfers were organized in line with protection principles to enable adequate services for migrants in vulnerable situations.

In TRC Borići, IOM and partner organization staff attended an information session organized by Médecins du Monde (MdM) on 23 and 24 May on mental health in the context of migration. The session provided information about recognizing and understanding symptoms and signs of a traumatic experience and how to react adequately. The training increased the knowledge of frontline staff on how to better support individuals with mental health-related concerns.

In TRC Ušivak, on 24 May, IOM and the SFA hosted the regular CCCM meeting with sector partners in attendance. Of note, partners agreed to update the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) referral mechanism in the centre to reflect changes in emergency contacts of actors involved in the provision of MHPSS, so that coordination continues to be unhindered.

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 15 and 28 May, IOM facilitated a total of 1,414 emergency screenings, through which 201 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 175 persons while 1,130 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

IOM's Protection and MHPSS team organized focus groups with migrants to raise awareness about flood risks in the country, sharing the instructions provided by the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute of BiH.

In TRC Blažuj, community-based creative and educational activities were implemented during the reporting period including sewing, knitting, upcycling, embroidery, crafts, art creativities, and dancing therapy. These activities were attended by more than 200 migrants from Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Morocco, Pakistan, and Tunisia. IOM also organized soccer games with sports equipment for 35 beneficiaries, prevalently from Morocco, Bangladesh and India.

The construction of a gazebo was also completed, in TRC Blažuj. It will serve as a central gathering space facilitating social interactions.

With instructors from the BH Mine Action Centre (BHMACH), IOM organized mine risk education sessions in TRC Blažuj for migrants with no previous training on landmines and unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) in BiH. A similar training was conducted in TRC Ušivak for UASC in cooperation with World Vision.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,414
 # of persons with protection risks and needs: 201

of individual assistance: 175
 # of persons reached through information sessions: 1,130



MIGRANTS IN TRC BLAŽUJ WAITING FOR THE REGISTRATION PROCESS TO ACCESS THE SERVICES IN THE CENTRE.
 ©IOM 2023



WOODWORKING WORKSHOP IN TRC BORIĆI.
 ©IOM 2023

SHELTER, WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

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

In TRC Ušivak, the IOM's CCCM team carried out the reorganization of the center's accommodation capacity. Isolation area has been repurposed into a pre-registration zone for families, single women, or single men so that the total pre-registration capacity includes 10 accommodation containers with 40 available beds (previously designated for Isolation) and five accommodation containers in the UASC zone with 30 available beds.

The new organization of space will enable faster assistance to new arrivals in the centre.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 1,024

of laundry services: 1,523

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 16,677 NFIs were distributed.

In TRC Blažuj, a total of 800 packages including hygiene and clothing items donated by Islamic Relief were distributed to 400 migrants.

of meals distributed: 26,828

of complimentary baby food distributed: 535

of NFIs distributed: 16,677



IOM'S MOBILE TEAMS COLLECTING INFORMATION IN FLOODED AREAS IN BIHAĆ FOR THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.
©IOM 2023

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 39 transportation services for 132 migrants and conducted 279 information sessions.

IOM's mobile teams visited several local communities in Bihać that were affected by recent floods and implemented a needs assessment of flood-affected areas, which involved consultations with local population and local community representatives including city administration and civil protection.

of persons transported: 132

of information sessions: 279

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 15 and 28 May, the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) team assisted 860 migrants, with 483 located in reception centres and 377 in out-of-site locations. Information sessions on AVRR were conducted to ensure that beneficiaries were well-informed about the available assistance throughout pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival. Additionally, 118 counselling sessions were held to provide migrants with personalized support.

During this reporting period one person returned to their country of origin. Six other individuals applied for AVRR assistance, and their return preparations are currently in progress.

Virtual counselling sessions with IOM in countries of origin were organized for three individuals from Algeria, Pakistan, and Slovakia. These sessions aimed to connect the beneficiaries with their families and counterparts in their home countries, as well as to provide information about the possibilities within assisted voluntary return assistance and reintegration opportunities upon their return.

In collaboration with the NGO Vaša prava, IOM regularly organizes legal information sessions for migrants accommodated in TRCs. These sessions aim to empower migrants with knowledge about their rights and details of AVRR assistance. This ensures that migrants can make informed decisions about their voluntary return.

The fluctuation of migrants poses a challenge for planning comprehensive assistance, ensuring follow-up on provided services, and estimating efficiency. IOM is committed to taking the necessary steps to overcome this challenge and ensure the permanent availability of information regarding the possibilities and benefits of voluntary return. An improved level of coordination between relevant actors involved in providing protection services to migrants ensures the availability of comprehensive assistance, reaching a significant number of migrants and enabling the timely provision of necessary information and support through the IOM AVRR programme.

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,352

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 28

IOM's Protection and MHPSS Assistant Miša Kuvačić shared a Story

I would like to share a moment that occurred recently and that highlights well why I love my job as Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) assistant, and why I appreciate being a part of the IOM team working in Temporary Reception Centers (TRC) at BiH.

During my lunch break last week, I was informed by one of the interpreters that one of the families that newly arrived in TRC Borići was asking for me specifically. Fearing it might be something urgent, I went to the family immediately. When I got to their accommodation unit, they asked "Are you Miša?". They told me to wait and got their phone to call someone.

On the phone screen, familiar faces appeared. One of the families who stayed in TRC Borići seven months ago greeted me with smiles and happy faces. They expressed gratitude for everything IOM was able to do for them during their stay and asked me to send greetings to the rest of the IOM staff. In the TRC, which is dedicated to supporting families and migrants in vulnerable situations, this family was able to access the services provided by the IOM Protection and MHPSS teams. Every day, we, as IOM staff, provide assistance to migrants and asylum seekers, including emergency screening and vulnerability assessments, referrals to specialized and non-specialized services, psychological first aid and psychosocial support, as well as information on rights and assistance available. For me personally, it is enriching and fulfilling to play a critical role in the delivery of rights-based assistance and the coordination of protection activities in the centre.

Fulfilling especially, when seven months after, a family calls just to say thank you.



IOM's PROTECTION AND MHPSS ASSISTANT MIŠA DURING AN INFO LEGAL SESSION WITH A BENEFICIARY DESIGNED TO SHARE RELEVANT INFORMATION INCLUDING LEGAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, ASYLUM PROCESS, POTENTIAL RISKS OF NATURAL HAZARDS IN THE REGION, AND MORE.

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In 2022, IOM reinforced its Protection and MHPSS interventions in and outside of reception centres, conducting over 24,962 vulnerability screenings, which enabled support to 1,896 people with identified vulnerabilities and risks, as well as 2,221 referrals to specialized medical services. Moreover, 800 psychosocial sessions were organized in TRCs.

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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