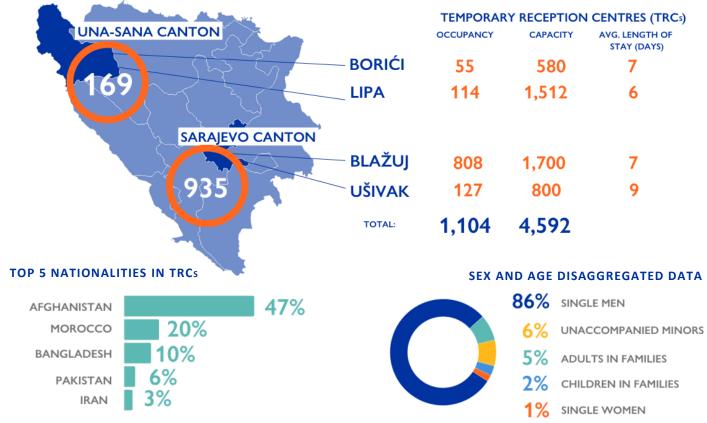
## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION RESPONSE** SITUATION REPORT

12-25 JUNE 2023



### 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	2,893								10,159

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 15 June, the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Mr Nenad Nešić, met with IOM's Director General elect, Ms Amy Pope, on the margins of the Prespa Forum Dialogue. Building on the longstanding cooperation between the Ministry of Security of BiH and IOM, as well as the recent adoption of the Action Plan for Sustainable Migration Governance in the Western Balkans 2023-2025, the meeting focused on cooperation to address smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, increase access to regular pathways, and return management. IOM remains committed to support and assist BiH, notably in the context of the EU accession process.

On 21-22 June, IOM and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), with the support of the Kingdom of Norway, organized a training to enhance protection and assistance to unaccompanied and separated children, with participation of both IOM mobile teams and SFA officials involved in the mixed migration response, as well as representatives of centres for social work, UNICEF, Save the Children, and Jesuit Refugee Service. The objective of the training was to strengthen cooperation and harmonize practices to better protect and assist vulnerable migrants.



#### **COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT**

Between 12 and 25 June, IOM recorded a total of 3,131 people who arrived in reception centres including newly registered and those previously registered who returned for assistance and 3,131 new departures in all reception centres in BiH. The flow of migrants remains intense, with most beneficiaries staying only a few days in the centres. A total of 1,196 new arrivals (first time fully registered) were recorded in the reporting period of two weeks.

In TRC Blažuj, arrivals have increased significantly over the reporting period, with 1,076 arrivals recorded in a single week, out of which 883 were newly registered individuals. There has been a rise in the number of migrants originating from Morocco, making them the second-largest national group in the centre. Additionally, migrants from Bangladesh constitute the third-largest national group. People from Afghanistan remain the predominant nationality in the centre. During the reporting period, IOM, in collaboration with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), expanded the capacity of the pre-registration area in the centre to address the emerging needs. The area now consists of additional 22 sleeping spaces, resulting in a total capacity of 106 spaces. The centre's total accommodation capacity is 1,700 beds.

In TRC Borići, an increase in the number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) has been observed among the new arrivals in the reporting period. A total of 18 UASC were received and accommodated in the UASC Zone.

In TRC Borići, migrant volunteers and IOM actively contributed to sorting plastic waste, recycling approximately 1,500 plastic bottles in support of the Go Green initiative, which aims to preserve the environment and reduce waste.

In TRC Ušivak, the number of admissions of people also increased during the evening hours and nighttime. During the reporting period, several relocations of families and unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) were carried out during the night from TRC Blažuj to TRC Ušivak to enable adequate assistance for this group. The IOM camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) team in coordination with the SFA admitted 146 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) following the coordinated relocation from TRC Blažuj.

## PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 12 and 25 June, IOM facilitated a total of 1,065 emergency screenings, through which 232 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 170 persons while 1,278 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Blažuj, information notices were created for migrants staying in the Pre-registration Zone. The notices contain details about the duration of stay in the Zone, information about the check-out process, and instructions on the steps preceding registration with the SFA and IOM, enabling migrants to access services available in the centre. The notices enhance migrants' understanding of the purpose of the Pre-registration Zone and provide clear instructions on the necessary steps upon arrival at the centre. The notices have been translated into Arabic, French, Urdu, Pashto, and Persian languages, in addition to the English language.

In TRC Blažuj, during the reporting period, a weekly Movie Day event was organized in collaboration with Médecins du Monde (MdM) and the centre Ivan Pavao II & Caritas BiH staff. Around 40 beneficiaries joined the event. In addition, several activities were implemented including sewing, knitting, upcycling, embroidery, crafts, art creativities, karaoke and dancing sessions, attended by more than 300 beneficiaries in total from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, and Guinea. The purpose of these activities was to provide a sense of community and reduce stress for migrants living in the centre.

The IOM Migrant Protection Assistants provide medical transportation to and from the health centres for the emergency medical cases and provide transport to the health centres/hospital after working hours of doctors in TRCs. During the reporting period IOM performed 21 medical transportations.

# of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,065

# of persons with protection risks and needs: 232

# of individual assistance: 170



Newly arrived migrants in TRC Blažuj during the registration procedure ©IOM 2023



Mine Risk Education sessions are implemented for migrants in reception centres by IOM to increase their knowledge on mine related risks in BiH.

TRC Borići, June 2023. ©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.

Mother and Baby Wash Unit services were used by 78 beneficiaries, 53 mothers, and 25 children (20 female and 5 male), and 41 bags of clothes have been washed and dried and nine ironed. Regular cleaning of MBWU premises and the area around the unit was conducted daily.

# of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 1,104 # of laundry services: 871

## 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 28,475 meals and 15,826 NFIs were distributed.

The high turnover of migrants puts an additional effort for IOM to ensure that all migrants receive NFIs as needed upon reception. In TRC Ušivak, 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 met right upon arrival.

The association "Most za Bolje Sutra" from Velika Kladuša donated 30 children colored books to Mother and Baby WASH Unit in TRC Ušivak, enriching the library for children which already includes titles in French, Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, German and English languages.

# of meals distributed: 28,475 # of complimentary baby food distributed: 523 # of NFIs distributed: 15,826

## 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 mainly to reception centres for 399 migrants and conducted 688 information sessions.

Afghanistan (43%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants (Chart 1.), followed by Pakistan (24%), Bangladesh (12%), Democratic Republic of the Congo (6%), China (4%), India (4%).

# of persons transported: 388

# of information sessions: 688

## **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 12 and 25 June, the IOM AVRR team reached 725 migrants, including 536 in reception centres and 189 migrants in out-of-site locations, through information sessions on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR).

A total of 383 counselling sessions were conducted to ensure that beneficiaries are well-informed and aware of the available assistance during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival. In the reporting period two individuals returned to their countries of origin (one to Morocco and one to Turkey).

Additionally, a Virtual Counselling (VC) session was organized with IOM Morocco for a beneficiary whose return planning is in progress.

The purpose of this event was to obtain more information about possibilities in the country of origin upon return, such as country-specific information on employment, training, business opportunities and the school system. These inputs will help in tailoring reintegration assistance for this individual.

Together with NGO Vaša prava IOM Protection and AVRR teams regularly organize legal information sessions for migrants accommodated in TRCs. During these sessions the AVRR team provides additional information to migrants regarding their rights, key details of AVRR assistance, and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to their country of origin.

# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,360 # Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 36



AVRR INFORMATION SHARING FOR MIGRANTS OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION CENTRES IN SARAJEVO CANTON.

©IOM 2023

# Asya and Hanna's Story - a mother and daughter on the move

Asya\* is a single mother from Pakistan who decided to migrate to Europe with her beloved daughter, Hanna. Following a difficult journey through Pakistan, Türkiye, Greece, and Serbia, Asya and Hanna\* arrived in one of the family Temporary Reception Centers (TRC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Upon registration and screening, IOM staff provided them with tailored assistance and services. Asya, who suffers from a chronic illness, immediately received the necessary medical care.

"Despite my ongoing battle with my medical condition, I am completely devoted to Hanna and her wellbeing. I want my daughter to continue her education. I dream of a society that offers equal rights and opportunities for women as well as a quality education and a safe environment for my daughter." - Asya

Hanna expressed her wish to go to school and to participate in sports activities organized in the reception center. In BiH, IOM supports UNICEF activities to address children's individual needs which encompass among others access to education, health care, and psychosocial support as well as family unity and various protection measures to ensure children's safety.



Drawing made by a beneficiary in one of the reception centres at the creative workshop.

©IOM 2023

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy

In 2022, IOM assisted more than 5,513 children (girls, boys), including 3,532 unaccompanied and separated children. In family-oriented centres such as TRC Ušivak, in the Sarajevo Canton, IOM runs the Mother and Baby Wash Unit, where 3,177 services were delivered last year.

#### 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.













