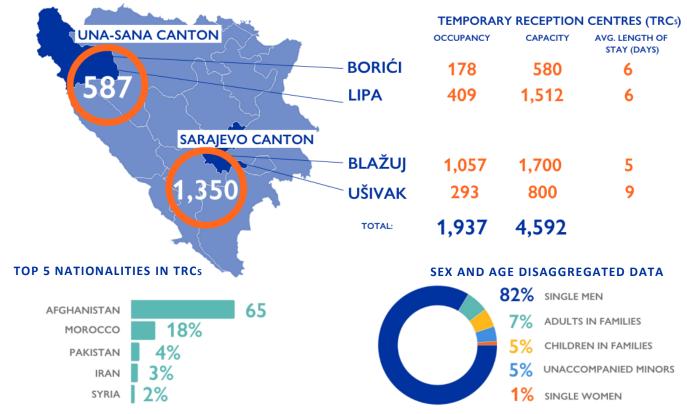
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION RESPONSE SITUATION REPORT

4-17 SEPTEMBER 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	1,781	1,460	1,960	2,065	2,893	2,772	3,967	3,542	1,034				21,474

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 13 September, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Unit presented two new reports shedding light on key migratory trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

IOM introduced a new Migrant Mobility Situation Report, launched last month, along with a customized study conducted with Moroccan citizens in temporary reception centres (TRCs) in BiH.

With participation of Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) director, Žarko Laketa, the Border Police of BiH director, Mirko Kuprešaković and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies in BiH director, Enes Karić, the officials discussed ways to enhance collaboration for the benefit of migrants and host communities.

For further reference, please access the reports at:

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Reports | Bosnia and Herzegovina (iom.int)



Presentation of the New Reports on Key Migratory Trends to SFA, BP, AND DCPB DIRECTORS. ©IOM 2023

CONTACTS

COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 4 and 17 September, IOM recorded a total of 5,294 people who arrived in four temporary reception centres, including newly registered and those previously registered who returned for assistance and 5,966 new departures.

The rate of new arrivals/departures puts intense pressure on IOM staff, services and resources. IOM ensures that all migrants arriving in reception centres receive information about services available and have access to immediate assistance and services such as provision of Food and Non-Food items.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM intensified coordination with partners regarding the provision of medical services to migrants to address emerging needs. During the week between 4 and 10 September, a total of 270 people were referred for medical examination to the centre's infirmary. In addition, IOM's camp coordination and camp management team (CCCM) in cooperation with DRC provided five transports to the hospital for 10 migrants who needed secondary health care. Among the people who needed immediate medical assistance was one pregnant woman who was transported to the hospital and shortly after gave birth. IOM in coordination with UNFPA and World Vision provided all necessary protection assistance to this family.

In TRC Lipa, IOM and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) are committed to implementation of the operational plans within each service sector, including WASH, provision of Non-Food Items (NFI), Food and Shelter, as part of the ongoing transition process. The cooperation includes morning briefings and meetings to define and set realization of daily activities in accordance with the operational plans.

#total new arrivals: 5,294 #new departures: 5,966

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 3,135

of persons with protection risks and needs: 564

of individual assistance: 242



PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 4 and 17 September, IOM facilitated a total of 3,135 emergency screenings, through which 564 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 242 persons while 1,742 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

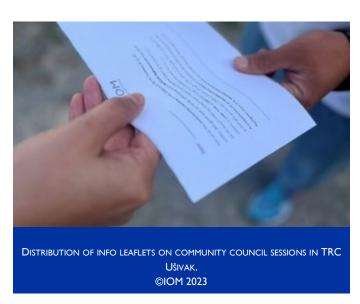
In TRC Blažuj, IOM installed an audio system for announcements and information sharing at five locations in the centre to enable even coverage. IOM's Protection and MHPSS team will prepare audio announcements that will enhance the awareness of the centre's beneficiaries about services and other important issues related to life in the centre. In addition, as part of the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) mechanisms, IOM initiated the creation of three additional notice boards providing information on the services available in the centre. IOM's maintenance staff worked on setting up a canopy to provide protection from the sun or rain for migrants waiting in line for meals and attending social activities.

TRC Lipa No Nation Fashion (NNF) Creative Zone presented hand-made products made by migrants to visitors of the 3rd Una Sana Canton (USC) International Crafts Fair 2023 in Bihać, promoting migrants' skills and creativity and affirming social cohesion with the local population.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM distributed leaflets prepared in six languages (Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, Turkish, Spanish, and French) with the basic information related to the organization of community council meetings in the centre, to ensure that accountability to affected population mechanisms are in place and migrants have the channels to address their concerns. Around 100 people were reached and got the information.

NNF Studio organized workshops in TRC Ušivak on knitting, sewing, and crocheting. Around 50 beneficiaries participated in the workshops, mostly from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Türkiye.

In TRC Borići, IOM and *Vaša prava* held an information session for migrants from Cuba. During the interactive session, migrants were informed about their rights and responsibilities under national and international legal frameworks.



SHELTER, WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

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

In TRC Ušivak, the walls and ceiling in the kitchen were refreshed with a new wall paint resistant to moisture absorption, improving hygiene inside the kitchen area.

Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) services were used by 106 beneficiaries, 71 mothers and 35 children (25 female and 10 male), and 67 bags of clothes have been washed. Regular cleaning of MBWU premises and the area around the unit was conducted daily.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 1,937



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 55,986 meals and 23,279 NFIs were distributed.

of meals distributed: 55,986 # of NFIs distributed: 23,279



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 79 transportation services mainly to reception centres for 274 migrants and conducted 716 information sessions.

Afghanistan (62 %) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Morocco (20%), Pakistan (7%), India and Cuba (2 % each), Sri Lanka and Türkiye (less than 2% each), Algeria (1%), Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Nepal (less than 0,6 % each), Bangladesh, Iran and Tunisia (less than 0,3 % each).

of persons transported: 274 # of information sessions: 716

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Between 4 and 17 September, the assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) team reached 926 migrants of which 707 in TRCs and 219 migrants in other locations off-site – through information sessions on AVRR.

A total of 441 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival.

Five persons returned to their country of origin (four to Dominican Republic and one to Morocco), while three others applied for AVRR and their return preparations are currently in progress. Virtual counselling sessions with IOM AVRR teams in countries of origin were organized for six beneficiaries.

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 AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities upon their return.

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 additional information about their rights, key details of AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to country of origin.

Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 76 (M69, F7)
Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,377 (M1,214, F163)
Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 53 (M48, F5)

Football Talents - A Story of Hope and Resilience

Ali* and Said* are 20-year-old migrants from Afghanistan who, like many, have TRC Blažuj also includes a so-called "Green Zone" a dedicated space for the long and uncertain road, their eyes light up and smile shows up on their tailor made protection services are provided for this age group. faces, whenever football is a subject of conversation.

In their homeland, Ali and Said were young and promising stars of the Afghanistan National Football League, and the pride of their small village. Their passion for the sport is evident early on. Football is not just a game to them, it is a part of their identity, a dream they have carried across borders and seas.

As they stand in long queues of newly arrived beneficiaries at the reception centre Blažuj, waiting for their turn to be interviewed, registered, and accommodated - finally finding some rest, their minds often wander to the world of football, and to some hopefully brighter future.

During August 2023, a record-breaking number of registrations were made in TRC Blažuj in a single month. A total of 8,242 migrants arrived, out of which 7,189 migrants were newly registered/pre-registered, exceeding the previous record set in October 2022 by 1,312 new arrivals. The average age of the newly registered migrants is 23 years, with a significant number within the range of 18 to 20 years of age.

All newly arrived migrants are directed to the registration process by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and IOM and provided with protection-sensitive services. In addition, IOM organizes creative and sports workshops and events in all reception centres as a form of relaxation and preservation of mental health of beneficiaries, strengthening their coping skills through socialization and occupational activities.

*Names were changed to protect privacy

started a challenging journey in search of a better life. Despite the exhaustion of accommodating single male who are between 18 and 21 years of age, where



CREATIVE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE POPULAR WITH BENEFICIARIES IN RECEPTION CENTRES. ©IOM 2023













