



IOM STRATEGY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (2022–2025)

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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IOM STRATEGY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

(2022–2025)

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present the Strategy of the IOM Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to you. This Strategy is a key tool in clearly articulating trends and challenges and how IOM will work with BiH authorities, migrant communities, and our many partners to achieve a positive impact over the course of the next four years. The Strategy affirms IOM's mandate and core priorities as laid out in its Strategic Vision and related governance documents.

This Strategy is anchored in IOM's Regional Strategy for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which further refines the global priorities and tailors them to the regional context. It lays out IOM's commitment to empower migrants and communities and to address drivers of migration. IOM is advancing positive, sustainable, and innovative development outcomes that are responsive to regional migration trends. In addition, IOM strengthens cooperative development and implementation of evidence-based and inclusive migration governance.

This Strategy highlights the current and future migration trends in BiH and sets out the context in which IOM carries out its activities. It outlines the challenges and opportunities relating to migration in the country and identifies the strategic priorities to address them in an effort to strive towards fostering safe, orderly and regular migration.

I am very grateful to IOM staff – particularly at the regional and country level – for their diligent and insightful work in developing this Strategy and in their commitment to its successful implementation. The Strategy is particularly timely given the operational needs on the ground, with a particular emphasis on response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic and our collective commitment to build back better.

This Strategy affirms IOM's commitment to support governments, local authorities and stakeholders in upholding migrants rights, regardless of their migration status and across all stages of the migration cycle. With this Strategy, and in cooperation with our numerous and diverse partners, we will continue to respond to the needs and aspirations of migrants, building societies fit for a modern, mobile and interconnected world. IOM looks forward to strengthening its partnerships in BiH and joining efforts in fostering migration for the benefit of all.

RENATE HELD

IOM Regional Director

FOREWORD

This Strategy has been elaborated by IOM in consultation with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) authorities. Building on the work achieved and the collaboration established with local authorities and a wide range of partners, our Strategy highlights the current and future migration trends in BiH and sets the context in which IOM carries out its activities. It outlines the challenges and opportunities relating to migration as well as socio-economic stability in the country, and identifies linkages between IOM's work and relevant frameworks, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Framework in BiH 2021-2025, the forthcoming BiH Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Asylum 2021-2025, the European Union (EU) Pact on Migration and Asylum and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Over the next three years, IOM will foster state ownership over the mixed migration response by gradually transferring responsibility for managing temporary reception centers and providing protection-sensitive assistance. IOM will increasingly shift its focus towards longer-term solutions and regular pathways for safe and dignified migration. This includes well-managed return programmes, along with labour migration and diaspora engagement interventions, to address skills needs as a result of increasing emigration trends of young and qualified individuals. In addition, IOM will prioritize initiatives that increase social cohesion, inclusion, and community resilience. IOM will also focus on increasing the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and research to support evidence-based policy. Through a whole-of-society approach integrating the voices of migrants, youth, women and stakeholders from the civil society, media, academia and private sector, IOM will promote informed opinions to improve public perceptions of migration and public support of sound migration governance mechanisms.

LAURA LUNGAROTTI

IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chief of Mission
Western Balkans Sub-Regional Coordinator

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. ABOUT IOM

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN's leading agency on migration and the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, working closely with its key stakeholders - migrants and Member States - to promote humane, safe, and orderly migration. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants from an integral and holistic perspective, including links to development, in order to maximize the benefits and opportunities of migration and reduce its challenges. Established in 1951, IOM now has more than 170 Member States, offices in over 400 field locations and more than 14,000 staff - 90 percent of IOM's staff being deployed in the field. In the South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, IOM has 19 missions.

As recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human mobility is indivisible from sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and the commitment to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind – will not be achieved without due consideration of migration. Additionally, the Global Compact for Migration is grounded in the 2030 Agenda and promotes the principles of having a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to address this intrinsic link. This Strategy will support the Member States to achieve this, ultimately leveraging the potential of migration through a whole-of-government approach to achieve sustainable development outcomes for all. It is a direct contribution to the Decade of Action to fast track progress for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. It brings greater coherence and development impact to IOM's activities and allows for a joined-up approach to the way the Organization designs and delivers its operations, as called for in IOM's Strategic Vision.

IOM's Strategic Vision, presented to IOM Member States in 2019, spans the period of 2019 to 2023. The Vision articulates how IOM plans to meet its new and emerging responsibilities, including IOM's mandated role as Network Coordinator. It sets out the 'direction of travel' for IOM, is forward looking and encourages 'joined up thinking'. This Strategy is aligned with the Vision, its corresponding Regional Strategy for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the IOM Strategic Results Framework, which are anchored in the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration.



1.2. IOM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

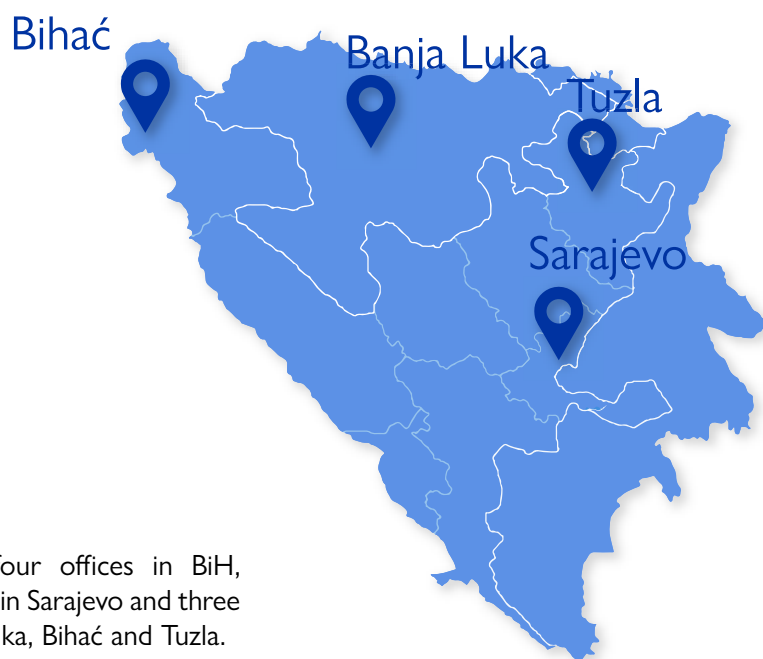
IOM has been present in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) since 1992, providing life-saving assistance and medical evacuations for war-affected populations during the war in former Yugoslavia. Following the end of the conflict, IOM expanded its activities to the return of refugees from abroad and to assist BiH nationals resettling in third countries. Together with the international community, IOM continues to assist the population in BiH in rebuilding their lives and working for a better future.

As the BiH authorities pursue their aim of accession to the European Union (EU), increasing attention has been given to key migration issues by state actors, the international community, civil society, and the media. Today, with a focus on building the capacity of the authorities to govern migration, IOM is working with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental partners within the area of migration governance.

As the Sub-regional Hub for the Western Balkans, the IOM Mission in BiH plays a key role in coordinating the offices and activities in the region, with the objective to facilitate the development and implementation of programmes with a strong regional dimension, to promote common and coordinated strategies to partners and donors.

At the local level, IOM works with local communities, authorities, minorities, and informal groups on several issues affecting long-term prospects for mobility, development and human rights. Over the years, this has enabled the IOM Mission in BiH to establish excellent relations with community leaders, including youth and women, and be recognized as an organization that brings effective changes in people's lives.

IOM is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), notably as chair of the Social Cohesion Result Group. Together with the UNHCR, IOM co-leads the Mixed Migration Response in BiH, as well as the Protection Working Group. Finally, as the lead agency for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) activities in BiH, IOM provides ongoing technical support to competent authorities assisting migrants in irregular situation in BiH.



IOM currently has four offices in BiH, including a main office in Sarajevo and three sub-offices in Banja Luka, Bihac and Tuzla.

2. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

2.1. MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS



IOM staff providing humanitarian assistance to migrant families outside temporary reception centres in Una-Sana Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina © IOM BiH 2021

Since 2018, mixed migration flows have increased significantly in the Western Balkans. Comprised of a diverse group of people including asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in search of a better life, mixed migration flows in the Western Balkans and along the Eastern Mediterranean Route constitute approximately 26 per cent of all entries into the European Union (EU) in 2021.¹

According to data from the Ministry of Security of BiH, over 85,000 migrants and asylum-seekers have transited through BiH between January 2018 and December 2021, including 15,740 in 2021. Migrants in BiH and the sub-region are primarily from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, with the key driving forces behind their movements including conflict, insecurity, as well as deep-rooted economic problems and lack of opportunities. Migrants and asylum seekers travelling the Western Balkans routes are particularly vulnerable. In 2021, 16 per cent of the migrants accommodated in one of the five Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) in BiH are children, including 11 per cent children in family and five per cent unaccompanied or separated children (UASCs).

When they reach BiH, migrants and asylum seekers have been travelling for several months, and many have stayed in other countries, such as Greece and Turkey, for extended periods. To stay legally in BiH, over 90 per cent of migrants' express their intention to seek asylum. However, upon expiry of the two-weeks attestation issued by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), only four per cent enter a claim to the Sector of Asylum of the Ministry of Security (MoS).

Along their journey, migrants have often been exposed to violence, exploitation, and abuse from smugglers. In 2020, Europol noted a growth of migrant smuggling activities in the Western Balkans, with criminal networks employing increasingly exploitative measures to defeat controls.²

¹ DTM Europe, Quarterly Regional Report, October to December 2021. [DTM Q4 2021 Mixed Migration Flows to Europe.pdf](#)

² EUROPOL, Annual Activity report 2020. Available online. https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/emsc_4th_annual_activity_report_-_2020.pdf

Furthermore, increased border controls and movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have made onward movements difficult, leading to an increase in the average length of stay of migrants in BiH, with 40 per cent of migrants surveyed indicating they have been in BiH for over six months.³

In 2021, the number of migrants in BiH seems to have stabilized. Based on the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data and trends analysis, IOM estimates that 2,500 migrants were present in BiH at the end of 2021. This estimate includes 2,000 migrants accommodated in formal reception facilities, as well as some 500 migrants in private accommodation or other locations outside formal reception facilities. IOM is therefore working with local authorities to progressively shift the focus from emergency assistance to a state-owned migration response, and a focus on long-term migration governance. This process has started with the opening of the new temporary reception centre (TRC) Lipa in 2021, which is the first TRC managed by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), with technical assistance of IOM.⁴

2.2. HUMAN MOBILITY

The 2015-2016 migratory flows highlighted the need for functional, effective, and integrated border management systems in BiH and the Western Balkans. The EU accession agenda led to significant improvements in border reception capacities and bilateral, regional, and international cooperation to manage irregular migration. However, identity management, registration, screening, and referrals require further strengthening, as identified in the Strategy for Integrated Border Management in BiH for the period 2019-2023. Organized crime on international borders increases the risks of migrant abuse and exploitation. Moreover, human trafficking continues to represent a threat for migrants in transit as well as other vulnerable communities, such as the Roma.⁵

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and border closures, IOM continued improving the effectiveness of its voluntary return and reintegration programme for irregular migrants in need of assistance. Since 2015, IOM has helped over 1,160 migrants return to their countries of origin from BiH. From 2018 to 2021, the three most significant countries of return were the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Iraq. IOM worked towards establishing comprehensive return management systems, enhancing cooperation with consular and diplomatic missions in the main countries of return, and supporting the establishment of readmission case management systems, with a view to facilitate protection-sensitive readmission in support of member states' programming.

BiH has the largest number of emigrants as a share of its population of all countries in Europe, which has an impact on the country's development.⁶ The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH estimates that over two million persons originally from BiH live abroad. This represents over half of the current population living in BiH (over three million), providing up

³ IOM, DTM [Flow Monitoring Survey in BiH 2021](#), conducted in five temporary reception centres in November to December 2021.

⁴ All data on mixed migration flows in BiH and the Western Balkans can be accessed through the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) portal for Europe. The [Mixed Migration Flows to Europe Quarterly Reports](#) are available and provide an overview of mixed flows in the sub-region. The [Migrants Presence Outside of Temporary Reception Centres Reports](#) are available for BiH since March 2021.

⁵ Reference to internal and external sources. On the progress and challenges of Western Balkans authorities in the area of immigration and border management, see for instance the 2021 Enlargement Package: 2021 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy, most notably the [Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021 Report](#). The Strategy for Integrated Border Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2019-2023 (msb.gov.ba) can be found on this link. On the role of criminal groups in facilitating irregular migration in the Western Balkans and efforts to combat this phenomenon or mitigate risks for vulnerable migrants, see the 2021 [European Migrant Smuggling Centre 5th Annual Report](#); the 2021 European Parliament report on Understanding EU action against migrant smuggling, the 2020 report of the European Union; the Europol, Frontex, & EASO report on Tackling Migrant Smuggling in the Western Balkans; the 2021 [research report analyzing flows of people, money and drugs in the Western Balkans](#) by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the Europol 2021 [report on the use of violence by organised crime groups](#), and the [2020 Trafficking in Persons Report](#) of the U.S. State Department.

⁶ [IOM World Migration Report 2021](#), p. 104.

to nine per cent of the country's gross domestic product through remittances. Institutional capacities to leverage Diaspora for development have increased significantly in recent years, particularly in fields including health care, as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Meanwhile, people between the ages of 18 and 35 continue to leave the country in large numbers, representing 30 per cent of those who left in 2018. In the short to medium terms, labour and skills shortages are expected to negatively impact the BiH economy in several sectors while barriers to workers' mobility persist and will prevent those emigrating from fully applying and benefiting from their skills and experience, for example, evidenced by the high numbers of undeclared workers in the EU.⁷



Presentation of the Study "Emigration of Health and Information and Communication Technology Professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Challenges and Opportunities", conducted by IOM © IOM BiH 2022

2.3. SOCIAL COHESION AND RESILIENCE

More than a quarter of a century after the end of the war in BiH, the society continues to be confronted with a divisive rhetoric and unresolved war legacies. The increasing presence of migrants in BiH has become another source of division with precarious relations existing between migrant populations and host communities. Limited opportunities for meaningful interactions between people from different socio-political or ethnic groups create obstacles to building social cohesion among and between communities. In 2021, ongoing political tensions were heightened, raising concerns over peace and stability in the country and in the Western Balkan region more broadly.

BiH has experienced high emigration of young professionals, in part due to the social-economic gridlock, high unemployment rates, social exclusion as well as real and perceived corruption. The lack of positive narratives about the country has also given way to more radical beliefs, especially among disenfranchised youth from isolated and marginalized communities. Between 2012 and 2017, an estimated 363 individuals from BiH were

⁷ Reference to internal and external sources. For an overview of labour migration issues, see the [IOM World Migration Report 2022](#) and the World Bank report on [Western Balkans Labor Market Trends 2020](#). See also IOM's recent study [contributing to evidence-based labour migration policies for healthcare and ICT sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#). For a focus on youth employment and labour migration, see the Regional Cooperation Council [Report on youth employment in the WB](#); For an analysis of future labour market scenarios in relation to emigration, see the report - [A Skill-specific Dynamic Labour Supply and Labour Demand Framework](#). Data on irregular labour migration to the EU can be found in this EC Report - [Counteracting undeclared work and labour exploitation of third country national workers](#). For information on diaspora and their engagement, see the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees' [Report on Diaspora Engagement](#)

recruited by sanctioned violent extremist organizations to fight in conflict zones. In addition, 110 children with at least one parent from BiH are estimated to have been born in these conflict zones. As former associates and their families are increasingly returning home, the authorities of BiH are working to establish the legal, policy, and operational infrastructure required to go beyond the strictly security-related needs and build resilient communities.⁸

Climate change projections indicate rising temperature, erratic precipitation and increase in the likelihood of extreme weather events. The adverse impacts of climate change are exacerbated by underlying factors shaping vulnerability in BiH. According to the UN, BiH has a high exposure to natural hazards with a risk index rating of 3.7/10, the highest of Western Balkans countries. The nexus between migration, environment and climate change is multi-dimensional. About 20 per cent of the country is prone to flooding, with an estimated 260,000 people exposed to significant flood and landslide risks. Displacement and loss of adequate shelter for a short and extended period represent a recurring risk, especially during the winter months. Migrants in vulnerable situations are also exposed to the adverse impacts of environmental change, including those associated with climate change. A transition to a carbon-neutral economy can create new livelihood opportunities associated with clean energy, sustainable mobility, sustainable renovation, sustainable food systems and a circular economy. In 2020, BiH received around USD 1.86 billion in the form of international remittances. In other countries, migration for work has shown to have considerable positive impacts on climate change adaptation at the household level. However, the knowledge base on how and to what extent migration supports climate change adaptation and helps to manage disaster risk in BiH is limited. At the same time, those with the fewest resources are least able to move away from the adverse impacts of environmental shocks and stressors while being simultaneously the most vulnerable to such impacts.⁹



Engagement and empowerment of youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina through the conference entitled “Podcasting: empowering individual voices”, organised by IOM © IOM BiH 2022

⁸ Reference to internal and external sources. See for instance, the [60th report for Implementation of Peace Agreement on BiH](#) where the High Representative warns that BiH faces the greatest existential threat of the postwar period. See also the 2019 National Survey of Citizens' Perceptions in Bosnia and Herzegovina indicating that 49% young people (18 to 24 years old) in BiH were considering to leave the country and the [UNFPA Survey on Youth Emigration in BiH](#) 2021, documenting some of the main factors contributing towards this trend. The BiH UNSDCF 2021-2025 also recognized the potential of youth to build more inclusive and peaceful societies as priority under strategic priority IV Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion. This understanding was reinforced by the visit of the UN Secretary General's Envoy for Youth in November 2021. The 2020 [IOM/USAID report on Resilient Citizenship in BiH](#) uses the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) index to discuss factors contributing to youth vulnerability or resilience to radicalization. Finally, see also the 2021 Atlantic Initiative report [Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters \(RFTFs\) and Their Families in the Western Balkans](#).

⁹ Reference to internal and external sources. On the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental risks, see [INFORM Global Risk Index](#), as well as the BiH United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025. On the positive impacts of migration on climate change adaptation at the household level, see Oakes et al. 2019. On remittances levels in BiH, see World Bank 2021.

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

PRIORITY 1. SUPPORTING A LONG-TERM, LOCAL, AND STATE-OWNED RESPONSE FOR PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS



Enhancing migrants' participation in camp governance through complaint and feedback mechanisms © IOM BiH 2020

Reception capacities and coordination

As the lead agency for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in BiH, IOM provides technical support to state partners in the provision of assistance to migrants in irregular situation, both inside and outside of TRCs. In TRCs, IOM provides direct assistance such as shelter, food and non-food items, access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, protection assistance, including referrals to specialized services. Outside of TRCs, IOM deploys mobile teams to reach out to migrants in locations used as transit points. Through its new Strategy, IOM also plans to gradually transfer the responsibility of camp management to the authorities, by providing technical support, capacities, tools, and resources to strengthen national ownership of the response.

The need to move towards integrated, equitable, effective and transparent health service provision system for migrants has also been identified through dialogues with Entity and Cantonal health authorities and health facilities. Moreover, in support of the Strategy and leadership of the state partners, IOM will help define long-term strategies for sustainable reception facilities tailored to the profiles and needs of the persons accommodated, and well-integrated in local communities. As such, IOM will seek to strengthen local CCCM expertise and cultural competencies of staff working in TRCs, and actively promote Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and migrants' participation in camp governance.

Protection and assistance to the most vulnerable

IOM's Protection Focal Points assist children and migrants in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTIQ community, victims of trafficking and victims of human rights violations, both in and out of TRCs. IOM will continue to ensure non-discriminatory access to humanitarian assistance and rights for all migrants while progressively mainstreaming protection within humanitarian assistance and expanding the reach and diversification of services in and outside of reception facilities. IOM will improve vulnerability screening and the provision of protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in TRCs and expand protection and counter trafficking activities outside of reception facilities.

Moving forward, IOM seeks to continue mapping existing services to develop new partnerships and refer vulnerable migrants to local organizations. Moreover, IOM will strive to strengthen the registration, screening, identification, and referral of persons in vulnerable situations within mixed migration flows, and increase access to information on rights, services, and pathways available. IOM will also seek to support small-scale reception facilities promoting social inclusion and legal pathways, strengthening the capacities of staff and partners working in TRCs, to better inform migrants about their rights, with focus on the most vulnerable, those who cannot be returned (based on the principle of non-refoulement) and those who may be eligible for some form of international protection or temporary residence.

LINKING PRIORITY 1 TO GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Outcome 3
Quality, accessible and inclusive
education, health and social protection

Outcome 4
People centered governance
and rule of law

Global Compact for Migration



Sustainable Development Goals



SOCIAL COHESION AND RESILIENCE

PRIORITY 2. BUILDING VIBRANT, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES BY ADDRESSING PROMINENT DRIVERS OF INSTABILITY

Youth, Social Cohesion and Inclusion

IOM has worked with an extensive network of state, civic and community partners to support social cohesion and address unresolved war legacies. To help the country come to terms with the past, IOM will continue to strengthen transitional justice mechanisms, including support for victims of conflict-related sexual violence. Reconciliation and social cohesion will also be promoted through strong youth programming. IOM will empower and network local youth as agents of change to let them lead advocacy efforts and implement community initiatives, amplify positive narratives, and promote participation in democratic processes to strengthen trust in local institutions. In communities hosting large migrant populations, IOM will also seek to enable a response that benefits both people on the move and BiH citizens, create opportunities for dialogue and exchange on migration and diversity, and build linkages between migrants and host communities through social cohesion activities.



Donation of t-shirts and aprons handmade by migrants in temporary reception centre Miral to high school students in Una-Sana Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina © IOM BiH 2021

Resilience to Extremism

IOM will also strengthen institutional and grass-root mechanisms to prevent extremism and radicalization and continue fostering critical thinking, conflict mediation and socialization skills among vulnerable youth as tools to increase resilience against negative influences. At the community level, IOM will expand its support to existing networks that include parents, teachers, and religious leaders, and participative structures that engage people to imagine and implement community projects. IOM will strengthen institutional capacity to address risks associated to radicalization while ensuring that specialized reintegration assistance is available for eligible former associates of violent extremist groups sanctioned by the UN security council who return to BiH. IOM will also support professionals working in communities, as well as research into the needs of returnees, their families and host communities.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

IOM has been supporting communities in BiH to respond to, recover from, and prepare for climate-related disasters since the 2014 floods that affected nearly half the country and displaced 90,000 people. IOM will support the efforts of BiH that aim to avert migration out of necessity, including displacement, and address the needs of trapped and immobile populations. IOM will engage in partnerships to develop and implement joint approaches that analyse and address environmental drivers that compel people to move, accelerate climate action, reduce risk, build resilience, and enhance adaptive capacities. For example, in the event of disaster-induced displacement, IOM will draw data from its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to track the locations and evolving needs of disaster-affected populations and ensure that programmatic responses remain effective and relevant to shifting needs.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop, with the aim of strengthening preparedness and response of civil protection partners to natural and man-made disasters that may cause displacement or migration © IOM BiH 2021

LINKING PRIORITY 2 TO GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Outcome 1
Sustainable, resilient and
inclusive growth

Outcome 5
Citizen and community
engagement for social cohesion

Global Compact for Migration



Sustainable Development Goals



HUMAN MOBILITY

PRIORITY 3. HELPING MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY THRIVE THROUGH SAFE, ORDERLY, AND REGULAR MOBILITY PATHWAYS



Practical and theoretical presentation of the use of specialized equipment donated to the BiH Border Police, with the objectives to enable fast response to border security challenges, and rights-based migration systems. © IOM BiH 2021

Immigration and Border Management

Bilateral and regional cooperation on protection-sensitive migration and border management, assisted voluntary return, readmission frameworks, and counter-trafficking, are critical to build safe and rights-based migration management systems. IOM will continue to support authorities to effectively manage borders and respond to border security challenges, in line with international protection principles, as well as institutional needs and priorities. Interventions will support the harmonization and digitalization of border and identity management, and alignment with EU standards. Cross-border cooperation, and operations to strengthen anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling activities, and capacities to screen, identify and refer persons in situation of vulnerability will also be prioritized. In coordination with relevant partners including state authorities, regional bodies and humanitarian partners, IOM will foster high-level policy dialogues to progress towards integrated, non-discriminatory border management policies, including alternatives to detention, to uphold the human rights, dignity, safety and security of migrants in BiH.

Regular Pathways and Inclusion

In accordance with the GCM objectives, IOM seeks to improve access to regular pathways for migrants in BiH, and work with state authorities and partners to facilitate safe, dignified and sustainable solutions for those in need, with a focus on the most vulnerable. Alongside enhancing the access and use of currently available regular pathways such as temporary residency on humanitarian grounds and family reunification, IOM will strive to open new channels to expand and adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that responds to the country's labour needs, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life, and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability. Furthermore, IOM will work together with BiH authorities to increase measures of integration and social inclusion of migrants.

Return, Reintegration and Readmission

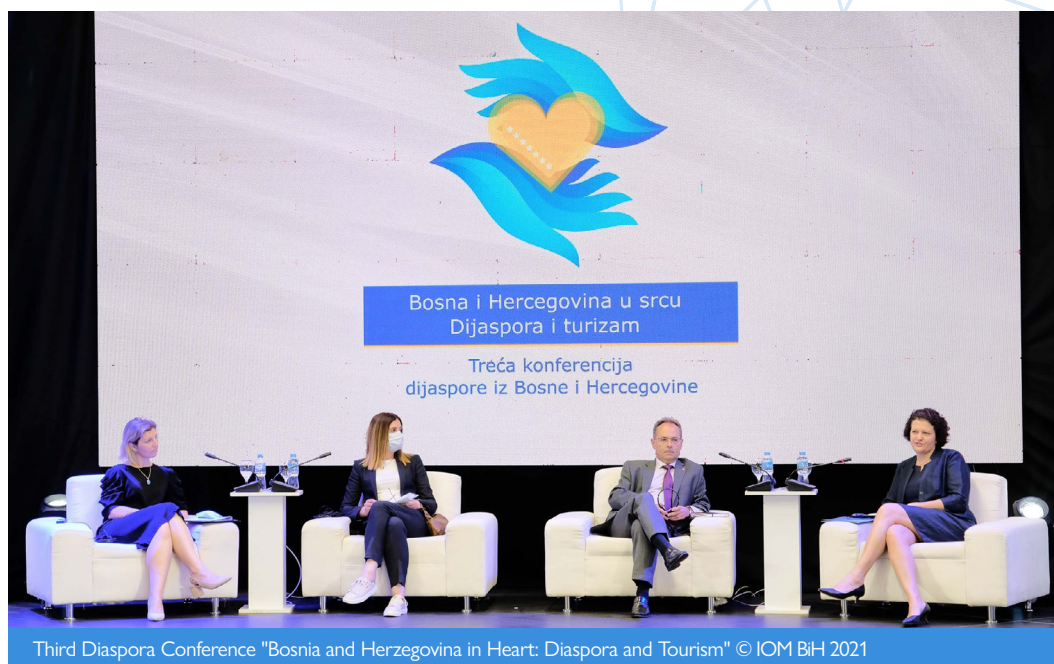
IOM's new policy on the full spectrum of Return, Readmission and Reintegration stems from the need to adopt a holistic approach to guide return through standard and effective practices, and support BiH authorities in exercising return and readmission policies. In BiH, IOM will focus on enhancing management and ownership of national partners on return through capacity development and technical assistance. In addition to mechanisms for voluntary returns, focus will be shifted to strengthening cooperation within the region and between countries of origin and transit/destination for non-voluntary return, through effective cooperation models for readmission. IOM will act as an honest broker in facilitating the discussion on international cooperation in the area and will support competent authorities in ensuring human rights accountability in these processes. IOM will continue promoting reintegration assistance as a key element of a sustainable return programme. In addition to helping migrants reintegrate into society, reintegration assistance will build upon and include the context and needs of the community of return.



IOM AVRR staff providing information on assisted voluntary return and reintegration to migrants during Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise © IOM BiH 2022

Labour Migration and Diaspora Engagement

IOM will continue to support the production and dissemination of reliable data on issues pertaining to mobility, emigration, labour, skills and human capital, to understand the economic and labour market impacts of migration flows, improve the forecasting of needs on the labour market, and reduce barriers to workers' mobility, particularly within the Western Balkans, for nationals of BiH seeking work opportunities abroad, and for foreign migrants seeking to engage in the BiH labour market. In the framework of the EU accession and Common Regional Market processes, IOM will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to facilitate mobility through policy developments, data management, and practical or digital solutions. Furthermore, IOM will continue mobilizing the diaspora of BiH abroad and build capacities for diaspora engagement by state authorities, notably through effective communication and mechanisms matching diaspora expertise with BiH business and institutions, to enable diaspora's investments and contribution to development and innovation.



Migration supporting climate change adaptation

IOM will promote approaches that facilitate orderly, safe, responsible, and regular migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters due to natural hazards. IOM will highlight the benefits of well-managed migration in supporting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. IOM will support the development and implementation of innovative migration policies and practices as well as seek to develop solutions that leverage the potential of migration for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

LINKING PRIORITY 3 TO GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Outcome 1
Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth

Outcome 3
Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection

Outcome 4
People centered governance and rule of law

Global Compact for Migration



Sustainable Development Goals



MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

PRIORITY 4. LEVERAGING INFORMED AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY AND DISCOURSES

Evidence-based Dialogues on Migration

IOM collects data and generates analysis with the aim to shed light on a wide range of migration related issues. In the context of the migration response, IOM uses the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system and works closely with BiH authorities and partners to map migrants' presence and needs, and provide critical information on profiles, intentions, vulnerabilities, risks, and incidence of smuggling or trafficking in the region. As part of the transition plan to a more state-owned migration response, IOM will continue to support the state of BiH with data management and aim for improving health information systems in TRCs. Through its new Strategy, IOM will continue to strengthen knowledge management and dissemination, expanding the scope of the data collected and the thematic areas explored to enable safe, orderly, humane and regular migration. Data collection and research efforts will also seek to inform the strategic objectives of the State of BiH in other relevant areas, such as immigration and labour mobility, youth and diaspora engagement, or counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling. Overall, IOM will engage state partners to achieve key results in relation to its Roadmap on migration statistics in BiH.



IOM staff together with Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) conducting DTM activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Migration Governance, Legislation and Policy

IOM will continue supporting effective migration governance through policy development, by actively supporting the State of BiH in achieving its strategic objectives in relation to migration, mobility and resilience, focusing on key documents such as the forthcoming Strategy on Migration and Asylum in BiH 2021-2025 and the Strategy for Integrated Border Management in BiH for 2019–2023. IOM's engagement in policy dialogues will also align and support the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in BiH and other key UN frameworks.

Moreover, IOM will help BiH progressively align to the EU acquis in key areas and support key objectives of the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and EU Neighbourhood Policy. In support of the BiH Strategy to counter trafficking and smuggling, and the related international Protocols, IOM will continue to promote regional cooperation, dialogue and interoperable systems to better prevent, detect and deter crimes within the mixed migration response in BiH. IOM will also seek to mainstream migration, environment and climate change nexus in relevant policies, and support BiH to avert, minimize and address disaster displacement and address issues related to human mobility in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Whole-of-government and regional approaches will be leveraged through consultative processes, such as the Prague and Budapest processes, as well as the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI).



IOM BiH provided technical assistance in setting up the temporary reception centre Lipa in Una-Sana Canton, and will continue to support state-led migration response, with Lipa being the first reception facility fully managed by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) © IOM BiH 2021

Inclusive Communication and National Dialogue

IOM will promote a whole-of-society approach towards migration governance by engaging not only institutional partners and local authorities, but also civil society, communities, migrants, diaspora organizations, academia, media, and the private sector. In addition to promoting participation and inclusive migration governance, the aim of this approach is to increase public access to well-balanced information and promote constructive dialogues on a range of topics related to reconciliation, diversity, inclusion, mobility, development, and migration. Among other things, IOM will expand its support for initiatives that strengthen social cohesion in migrant hosting communities and increase interaction between migrants and local populations. IOM will organize regular consultations with migrants and other relevant community stakeholders to address concerns and identify concrete solutions in coordination with local authorities.



No Nation Fashion (NNF) show marking International Migrants day in December 2021. IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina's NNF initiative won the IOM Global Innovation Award for Gender, Diversity & Social Inclusion in 2022. The award acknowledges the positive impacts of the NNF initiative on gender equality and social inclusion. © IOM BiH 2021

LINKING PRIORITY 4 TO GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

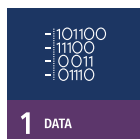
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Outcome 1
Sustainable, resilient and
inclusive growth

Outcome 4
People centered governance
and rule of law

Outcome 5
Citizen and community
engagement for social cohesion

Global Compact for Migration



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3.2. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Human rights: IOM contributes to the promotion of human rights through awareness-raising, rights restitution activities, support to national institutions in implementing changes to legal frameworks for the restitution of rights, and access to benefits.

Accountability to affected populations: IOM has a responsibility to ensure Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in all its programming. This is particularly relevant given IOM's leading role in the migration response in BiH. Through its work, IOM will strengthen feedback mechanisms, two-way communication with migrant populations, inclusion and respect for diversity, transparency, and protection.

Conflict sensitivity: IOM is committed to conflict sensitive programming in BiH. This is particularly important considering BiH's context, including with respect to the migration situation. IOM will conduct regular analysis to assess how to prevent and mitigate conflict and use its presence and activities to further build social cohesion and resilience. Intended and unintended outcomes will be closely monitored, and adjustments will be made where necessary.

Disability inclusion: IOM is committed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its humanitarian response. IOM supports the improvement of data collection on disability, the reduction of barriers to ensure more meaningful access to humanitarian services for persons with disabilities and capacity development of staff and partners on disability inclusion, in line with the 2017 Humanitarian Standards and 2019 IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Environment: IOM recognizes that a healthy environment is inherently linked to the safety, security and well-being of migrants and society and will use the available tools and resources to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

Gender: IOM will continue to identify and address the needs of all beneficiaries in BiH as part of its efforts to mainstream gender across its programming. IOM will strive to engage women and girls in the design and/or implementation of its activities and promote gender equality through an array of activities, including workshops on critical thinking or toxic masculinity. The positive role of women as agents of change in their communities will be promoted and amplified through IOM's positive media engagement.

Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN): IOM ensures coherence among its humanitarian, development and peace-related activities and policies in line with the OECD-DAC recommendations and IASC guidance on the HDPN. In BiH, IOM will work with BiH authorities, UN organizations, civil society and donors towards short- and long-term collective outcomes.

Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH): IOM has a policy of zero tolerance in regards to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. All IOM staff members are therefore required to complete mandatory training on PSEAH and report misconduct. This can be done through IOM's online reporting platform, which is also accessible to beneficiaries and partners in IOM's official languages. All complaints and allegations are investigated, and victim assistance is provided.

Youth: IOM will capitalize on its extensive youth engagement experience and network of local youth leaders across BiH, striving to promote youth-led activities to enable them to create positive changes for themselves and their communities.

3.3. PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

This Strategy is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Framework in BiH that was adopted in April 2021. Inter-agency coordination as well as Delivering as One is ensured through IOM's active participation in the UN Country Team (UNCT) and other UN coordination mechanisms including the Programme Management Team (PMT). IOM chairs Result Group 4: Social Cohesion and participates in the other results groups, as well as the PSEA Task Force and co-chairs the Mixed Migration Task Force together with UNHCR. IOM also participates in the Communications Group and Coordination Group on COVID-19, as well as the sub-coordination groups for protection and non-food items. As the chair of the UNSDCF Result Group 4, IOM takes an active participation and representation at the UNSDCF Steering Committee responsible for the overall strategic oversight of the UNSDCF implementation. The UNSDCF Steering Committee will include representatives of authorities in BiH from state, entity and Brcko district level and is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and designated representative of the BiH Council of Ministers.

At the state level, IOM coordinates with the Ministry of Security as the chair of the Operational Headquarters of Migration Issues. IOM supports the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), who is responsible for the management of TRCs and oversees many other important immigration and border management operations, including the whole spectrum of return assistance. IOM supports the SFA, the Border Police, the State Investigation and Protection Agency and the Office of State Coordinator for Combatting Human Trafficking to strengthen capacity for the identification of vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking. IOM also collaborates with the Ministry of Security on activities related to the reintegration of families of former associates of violent extremist groups and prevention, and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, to foster access to rights, protection, and durable solutions.

At the entity and Brcko district level, this includes the Ministries of Interior, Social Welfare, Health, and Education. At the local level, this includes Centres for Social Welfare, Primary and Secondary Health Providers, Public Health Institutes, and Mental Health Institutions. For interventions related to labour migration and human mobility, IOM works with the Ministry of Civil Affairs as well as entity-level ministries of education, labour, and health. IOM also works closely with municipal, cantonal, and entity-level youth councils and local and cantonal stakeholders involved in youth and civic participation affairs, such as ministries for Family, Youth and Sports and Centers for Social Work.

IOM actively works and coordinates with international and national non-governmental and civil society organizations, including UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, DRC and ILO, as well as partners such as the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative, Caritas, Fenix, Médecins du Monde, BiH Learning Activity Network, Pomozi.ba, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Save the Children, World Vision, and Vasa Prava BiH. As part of its efforts to build social cohesion and increase resilience, IOM has supported numerous civic organizations and associations. Since 2018, IOM has worked with more than 130 local partners in approximately 90 municipalities throughout BiH. As a result, IOM is recognized by communities as an organization that effectively brings positive changes in people's lives.

4. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND DATA

In November 2020, IOM adopted a new Migration Data Strategy 2020-2025 to serve as a framework and guidance for IOM's action to improve its own and Member States capacities to produce evidence-based policies, implementation, as well as monitoring and reporting on relevant international frameworks. IOM BiH is committed to promoting data and knowledge management. IOM will invest in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of accurate, reliable, disaggregated, and comparable data; as well as ensuring that this data fosters research, guides coherent and evidence-based policymaking and well-informed public discourse, and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of actions over time. Further, IOM aims to solidify partnerships and collaboration with other UN agencies on data initiatives as well as building the capacity of partners.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Globally, IOM continues to invest in improving monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to better assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, impact, and sustainability of its projects, programmes, strategies, and policies. IOM BiH will strengthen knowledge and skills on M&E amongst staff, increase numbers of dedicated M&E staff, consistently apply M&E policies, and promote more joined-up, collaborative and innovative approaches to M&E in line with emerging good practice and the need to support the United Nations system in its reforms towards a more streamlined organization. IOM BiH is committed to continuously work towards streamlining and integrating M&E systems across programs to ensure that data is effectively used for sharing knowledge, learning and best practices.

INNOVATION

In coordination with its regional office in Vienna, IOM BiH will aim to develop or adopt innovative technologies based on best practices. Furthermore, IOM BiH will reinforce existing partnerships and continue exploring new partnerships with think tanks, universities, foundations, companies, and research institutes in emerging areas such as migration health, livelihoods, access to formal employment, environment, and climate change, countering xenophobia and supporting social cohesion, in line with the IOM Private Sector Partnership Strategy.

VISIBILITY

IOM BiH will define and regularly review the objectives and focus on the mission's communication Strategy to increase visibility for its work. IOM will budget visibility actions at the project development stage and ensure planning and implementation of visibility plans in line with IOM standards and donor requirements. IOM will strengthen its use of social media through targeted promotion of posts, diversification of media formats, and use of analytical tools.

5. THE WAY FORWARD

This document highlights IOM's Strategy in BiH until 2025. It identifies four priorities, including support for a long-term state-owned response for protection and humanitarian assistance to migrants. This will be achieved by gradually transferring the responsibility of camp management and migrant health to the authorities while promoting smaller, more inclusive and sustainable community-based reception structures.

IOM aims to build vibrant, inclusive, and resilient communities by addressing prominent drivers of instability. IOM will empower and network youth to become agents of change in their communities, increase resilience against divisive influences, and strengthen social cohesion, including in migrant-hosting communities.

IOM's third priority will be to help migrants and society thrive through the establishment of safe, orderly and regular mobility pathways. This includes support for cooperation in the region and with countries of origin for return, readmission and reintegration.

Finally, IOM will leverage evidence-based policy and discourses by strengthening data collection and analysis, support policy development processes, and promote a whole-of-society approach to migration governance.



Vaccination of migrants against COVID-19 in Temporary Reception Center Ušivak, Sarajevo Canton © IOM BiH 2021



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