

#### 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	1,285	25,462

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 30 November, the renovated laboratory for molecular diagnostics at the Public Health Institute of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was officially inaugurated. IOM contributed to the rehabilitation efforts through the Migrant and Refugee Fund (MRF) of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and under the COVID-19 prevention and response measures within the migration response in BiH project. The new laboratory will contribute towards an integrated, equitable and effective health service provision for the local population and migrants. By improving health and social assistance IOM aims to strengthen social cohesion and reduce adverse feelings towards migrants.

Between 1 September and 15 November 2022, IOM conducted interviews with 403 migrants in five key locations (flow monitoring points) in three municipalities in Una Sana Canton (Bihać, Cazin and Velika Kladuša). The findings show that 34 per cent of respondents entered BiH with a facilitator, 84 per cent of respondents have been pushed back to BiH at least once and 96 per cent of those who had tried to cross the border into the European Union stated that they would try again in the future. The top countries of intended destination are Germany (33%), Italy (31%), France (24%) and Belgium (9%). The report is accessible **here** 



Laura Lungarotti, llungarotti@iom.int

#### **COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT**

During the reporting period, a total of 2,636 new amivals and 3,477 new departures were recorded in all TRCs in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), indicating less intense flow compared to previous weeks.

In Una Sana Canton, IOM and UNICEF jointly organized a thematic meeting with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), the Centre for Social Welfare (CSW) and World Vision (WW) to discuss recent cases of family separation and children abandonment. Draft standard operating procedures were presented and discussed, alongside the need for prevention activities through information sharing sessions.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM supported the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with the general screening of scabies cases, with the aim to prevent further spreading and raise awareness of various types of skin infections. Out of the 642 individuals screened by DRC medical professionals during the reporting period, 48 cases of scabies were confirmed. As per protocol, these individuals received support and treatment (i.e. procedures including topical medication, new non-food items, follow-up medical examination, other hygiene measures) and were quarantined for 24 hours.

In TRC Lipa, IOM organized activities on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with educational psychosocial workshops and discussions analysing issues behind domestic violence and violence in general. Participants concluded that it is important to address this issue openly and continually, without stigma.

In TRC Ušivak, on 5 December, the IOM Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support teams coordinated and moderated a visit and meeting of representatives of the CSW from Istočno Novo Sarajevo with IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OHCHR and World Vision representatives. CSW Istočno Novo Sarajevo representatives learned about the operational procedures in provision of protection and support to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) within the center. UNICEF and World Vision presented their services and coordination activities with CSW Hadzici, while UNHCR presented activities implemented by its partners, Vaša Prava and Bosnia and Herzegovina Women Initiative (BHWI).

Furthermore, the SFA adopted and approved the "Guide for service provision to the unaccompanied children within TRC Ušivak", upon the proposal of the Hadžići Social Protection Service (organizational unit within the CSVV branch in Sarajevo Canton). The guide was created to improve the provision of services to unaccompanied migrant children in TRC Ušivak IOM will share the document with partners at the centre.



A Worshop within marking 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in TRC Lipa. ©iom bih 2022

#### PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

IOM's Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams in BiH facilitated a total of 1,120 emergency screenings, through which 98 persons with protection needs were identified during the reporting period. IOM provided individual assistance including interpretation, logistical support, and referrals to 97 persons while 921 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

IOM invests continuous efforts to improve participation mechanisms in reception facilities by informing migrants on their purpose and use, and by adjusting the mechanisms to facilitate participation of all groups of beneficiaries.

In TRC Ušivak, the weekly Feedback and Complaint Committee meeting organized by IOM, with the participation of partner organizations, provided an opportunity to address any beneficiary feedback recorded during the week, most of which were related to the distribution of food and non-food items (NFI). The feedback was translated from the Farsi language, reviewed and shared with the staff in charge of the relevant sectors for information and adjustments in response to the feedback

On 6 December, in TRC Ušivak, the No Nation Fashion Studio was invited to hold a therapeutic workshop for migrants featuring British artist Kirstie Madeod. At the workshop, 15 migrants participated in creating embroidery ideas and concepts.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM in cooperation with the DRC and Médecins du Monde, entertainment activities are planned for migrants accommodated in the medical unit.

During the reporting period, IOM's Protection team had a meeting with TRC Lipa CCCM Coordinator, to discuss current challenges and gaps related to provision of protection activities. It has been agreed that IOM's Protection team will provide a refresher to all TRC Lipa IOM staff including the SFA personnel on principles of protection mainstreaming, indicators for vulnerabilities, and referral pathways.

In TRC Blažuj, a joint migrant and local community deaning action was organized in the area outside the center.

# of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,120 # of persons with protection risks and needs: 98 # of people reached with information sessions: 921



A JOINT MIGRANTS-LOCAL COMMUNITY CLEANING ACTION NEAR TRC BLAŽUJ.

©IOM BIH 2022

## SHELTER, WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM's maintenance and deaning team inspects all TRC installations daily, with two deanings per day, weekly disinfection, disinfestation, and derating (DDD) measures, and regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

In the TRC Lipa area, the first snow of the year was recorded, and temperatures are already below zero. Unfavourable weather conditions have made the implementation of daily activities more challenging due to the freezing of access roads leading to TRC Lipa, but also of the internal road network such as the area around the dining zone and accommodation units. Technical salt has been used to defrost roads.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM maintenance staff performed detailed checks of accommodation and sanitary containers. Various maintenance and repair work were conducted, including deaning open spaces, fixing windows, doors and roofs, as well as water pipes to maintain the quality and cleanliness of accommodation units.

# of persons sheltered: 1,382 # of laundry services: 1,800 IOM's mobile teams provided 45 transportation services for 102 migrants during the reporting period, 260 information and 15 psychological first aid sessions.

Upon a referral made by TRC Lipa, the IOM mobile team in Una-Sana Canton provided two transportation services to 12 single men in order to participate in sports activities in the sports arena in Bihać.

The IOM mobile team in Bijeljina provided assistance to two women who were stranded at the Drina River and found by the SFA. The women were in a life-threatening situation as they had spent the whole night surrounded by the cold water. The women were hospitalized, and the mobile team in Bijeljina provided them with NFIs and warm dothes. IOM then transferred the two women to TRC Ušivak once their condition stabilised for further support.

# of persons transported: 102 # of information sessions: 260





## 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 Pomoziba. In total, 36,894 meals and 11,826 NFIs were distributed during the reporting period.

In TRC Boriá, distributions of NFIs continued throughout the reporting period, providing welcoming packages, scabies kits, hospital kits, as well as dothes for the school children and other populations in need. On 5 December, IOM received donation containing dothes for children (3-17 years) by the Jesuit Refugee Service on 7 December.

# of meals distributed: 36,894 # of NFIs distributed: 11.826

#### ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

IOM's mobile teams are present in 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.

#### **RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS**

IOM's Return and Reintegration team provides administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants who decide to return to their country of origin.

During the reporting period, IOM reached 511 migrants, of which 184 live in TRCs and 327 migrants in other locations off-site — through information sessions on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR). A total of 102 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival. There were no returns in the reporting period, but nine beneficiaries applied for AVRR assistance and the organization of their returns is in progress. Thus far, IOM has organized a total of 120 voluntary returns in 2022.

On 8 December, IOM staff from the AVRR team participated in the seventeenth round of a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise. Synergies with DTM activities enable the IOM AVRR team to expand their outreach and provide the necessary support — including information sharing counselling referral to accommodation, medical, protection and MHPSS services — to migrants.

# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,316 # Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2022: 120

# Marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities—3 December 2022

On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities marked on 3 December, IOM reflects on the efforts made by staff providing services in TRCs.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM Protection and CCCM teams join forces to assist migrants in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities. Migrants with disabilities face additional barriers while they are on the move and/or living in insecure settings. Factors such as lack of access to services (including medical care or medications), lack of identification, loss of access to routine support networks, limited availability of support aids and the difficulties of extreme conditions of travel and inadequate shelter, all contribute to the increased risk of harm or exploitation faced by individuals on the move who have disabilit(ies).

In TRC Ušivak, to ensure equal access to humanitarian assistance and the rights for all migrants, IOM teams work together to find the best solution to expand the reach and diversification of services. This teamwork and joint effort has contributed to the rehabilitation of the new Mother and Baby Wash Unit to accommodate persons with physical disabilities. The personal hygiene area within the unit was equipped with two modified shower cabins, a baby bath, two children's baths, changing tables and standardized toilets and shower.

"Since the establishment of TRC Ušivak, IOM Protection and CCCM teams faced many situations that required a coordinated response to adapt services to migrants in vulnerable situations. The establishment of the Mother and Baby Wash Unit is the perfect example of how we have expanded the reach of services in reception facilities. In addition to mothers, children, single women, and single fathers, people with physical disabilities can now have access to a fully equipped, hygienically standardized toilet and shower cabin." Lejla Sinančević - Migrant Protection Assistant

As reflected in the accommodations introduced to the Mother and Baby Wash Unit, 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.



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.























