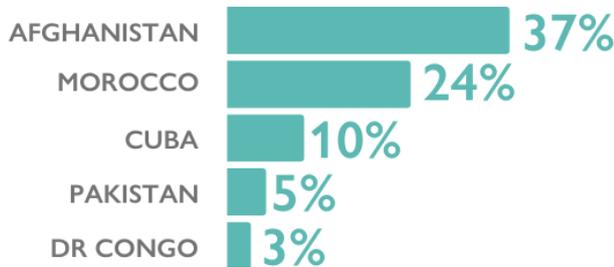




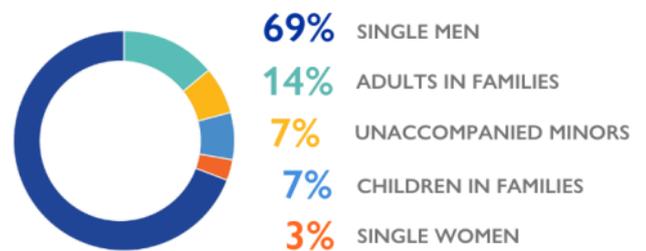
BORIĆI
LIPA
BLAŽUJ
UŠIVAK

| TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs) | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| OCCUPANCY | CAPACITY | AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) |
| 107 | 580 | 7 |
| 132 | 1,512 | 6 |
| 328 | 1,700 | 7 |
| 132 | 800 | 9 |
| TOTAL: | 699 | 4,592 |

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs



SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA



MONTHLY ARRIVALS RECORDED BY THE MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BIH

| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | TOTAL |
|------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| 2017 | 77 | 66 | 37 | 5 | 22 | 11 | 29 | 60 | 52 | 105 | 76 | 215 | 755 |
| 2018 | 237 | 479 | 598 | 1,801 | 2,242 | 2,295 | 2,489 | 2,293 | 3,710 | 5,057 | 1,931 | 935 | 24,067 |
| 2019 | 732 | 1,117 | 1,721 | 2,631 | 2,603 | 2,096 | 4,465 | 2,913 | 4,557 | 3,326 | 1,925 | 1,110 | 29,196 |
| 2020 | 882 | 2,001 | 1,540 | 112 | 512 | 1,722 | 2,194 | 2,618 | 1,889 | 1,087 | 1,064 | 529 | 16,150 |
| 2021 | 670 | 773 | 1,269 | 1,271 | 1,937 | 1,855 | 2,236 | 1,362 | 1,591 | 1,547 | 704 | 525 | 15,740 |
| 2022 | 429 | 578 | 907 | 1,567 | 1,972 | 2,214 | 2,615 | 2,389 | 4,640 | 5,010 | 1,856 | 3,252 | 27,429 |
| 2023 | 1363 | 1564 | 1055 | | | | | | | | | | 3,982 |

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 9 March, the Chief of Mission of IOM in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Laura Lungarotti, met with the newly appointed BiH Service of Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) director, Žarko Laketa. In BiH, IOM works closely with the BiH Ministry of Security (MoS) and the SFA in the management of Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs), while also furthering the plan for a transition to a state-owned migration response. The plan, initiated in 2021, aims to progressively transfer management of TRCs to the SFA.

On 8 March, International Women's Day was celebrated in all TRCs. Migrant women currently accommodated in TRC Ušivak celebrated International Women's Day together with women from the local community. Both migrant and host communities had the opportunity to try various culinary specialties from BiH prepared by women from local organizations, Ars Populi and Renesansa. IOM, with the support of the European Union and the SFA, together with partner organizations, prepared gifts for individuals residing at TRCs and organized a No Nation Fashion performance.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WAS MARKED JOINTLY IN TRC UŠIVAK BY IOM, MIGRANTS AND LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY. ©IOM 2023

CONTACTS

Chief of Mission
Laura Lungarotti, llungarotti@iom.int

Information Management and Reporting
Programme Support Unit, BIH_PSU@iom.int

www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina

COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 6 and 19 March, IOM recorded a total of 1,336 new arrivals and 1,296 new departures at all temporary reception centres in BiH. The flow of migrants remains intense, with the majority of beneficiaries staying only a few days in the centres. The average length of stay in four TRCs has decreased from 8.5 days in January 2023 to 6.3 days in February 2023.

During the reporting period, IOM recorded the first people arriving to BiH through the Eastern Mediterranean route from Türkiye, where they had refugee status, stating that the earthquake in February caused their move.

In TRC Borići, IOM's Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team together with IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) team in collaboration with Vaša Prava, information sessions were organized on 15 March regarding the legal rights and duties of migrants in BiH, raising awareness on irregular migration, the asylum-seeking process, and the option of assisted voluntary return facilitated by IOM. The sessions were organized for Spanish-speaking individuals, including thirteen adults from Cuba.

In TRC Ušivak, on 15 March IOM's camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) team held a meeting with World Vision to coordinate service provision for school children, ensuring that migrant children can continue their education in BiH. The high turnover rate of individuals arriving and leaving the centre has affected the continuity of school attendance as the number of school children is also changing fast. IOM is coordinating with World Vision to facilitate access to the public education system for newly arrived children. World Vision will update IOM on a weekly basis on the number of new school children that completed the necessary medical examinations required for school enrolment, which will enable IOM to plan transportation assistance for school children and other services according to needs.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM and Médecins du monde (MdM) agreed to provide joint psychosocial support for migrants staying in the medical unit, to address the wide variety of needs of beneficiaries who have medical conditions.

The number of skin infections has increased in TRC Blažuj, namely due to bed bug bites. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and IOM held a coordination meeting to respond to this outbreak. IOM will take over the organization of bed bug eradication measures with the Public Health Institute in addition to the regular hygiene and disinfection measures provided in the centre.

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 6 and 19 March, IOM facilitated a total of 751 emergency screenings, through which 111 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 73 persons while 776 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM organized an event in honor of International Women's Day, featuring music and the preparation of a popular Indian snack, jalebi, prepared by Pakistani beneficiaries as a gesture of appreciation for the hard work of the women working in the center.

Sewing and knitting workshops continue to be conducted on a regular basis in TRC Blažuj to encourage migrants to express their creativity, improve their skills, and help each other in mastering these skills. Creative workshops were also organized, during which migrants socialized and produced items such as tasbeeh, prayer beads, rosaries, bracelets for men, and paintings.

Furthermore, for International Women's Day, IOM and the SFA organized a visit to the University of Bihać for migrant representatives from TRC Lipa. The visit included a tour of all seven faculties and meeting with the head of the university. The visit aimed to further strengthen cooperation between the university and its students with the migrant community. In TRC Ušivak, workshops on decoupage and acrylic painting were held for adults in families and unaccompanied children. The activity has particularly drawn the attention of women and older people. This encouraged skills development, creative expression and socialization.

A mine risk education (MRE) session was held at TRC Blažuj during the reporting period. The session was attended by eight migrants who actively participated and learned more about the mine risks in BiH and safety protocols to adhere to in the case of danger.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: **751**

of persons with protection risks and needs: **111**

of people reached with information sessions: **776**

of referrals to specialized and non-specialized services: **207**



CELEBRATION OF IWD WAS ORGANIZED IN ALL TRCs.
©IOM 2023



A PAINTING MADE BY A WOMAN BENEFICIARY DURING THE DECOUPAGE AND ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP IN TRC UŠIVAK.
©IOM 2023

SHELTER, WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

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

In TRC Borići IOM's maintenance team prepared a space for the new library corner planned for the centre. The team built and mounted shelves, installed a door and painted the walls. They used recycled material for this purpose, including an old door that were replaced during the ongoing renovation of sanitary facilities.

In TRC Ušivak, on the occasion of World Poetry Day on 21 March, a "Reading Poetry" activity was organized within Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) for women and children in their native languages.



WORKS IN PROGRESS BY IOM FOR SHELVES IN THE LIBRARY CORNER IN TRC BORIĆI. ©IOM 2023



THE NEW LIBRARY CORNER IS READY. NEXT STEP: FILL THE SHELVES. ©IOM 2023

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. During the reporting period, a total of 15,841 meals and 10,089 NFIs were distributed.

In TRC Borići, the distribution of NFI and hygiene items, including previously received donations in packages from *Istituto Paco Sviluppo Innovazione Adi* (IPSA) and UNICEF, continued in the reporting period to the new arrivals and those in need. A total of 85 donated packages with hygiene and underwear (IPSA) for adults and 10 winter NFI (UNICEF) for children were distributed.

of meals distributed: **15,841**

of NFIs distributed: **10,089**

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 35 transportation services for 86 migrants and conducted 289 information sessions.

of persons transported: **86**

of information sessions: **289**

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

IOM provides administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants who decide to return to country of origin.

Between 6-19 March, IOM reached 174 migrants, of which 78 were in TRCs and 96 migrants in out of site locations, through information sessions on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR). A total of 81 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel and post-arrival. In the reporting period, six persons returned to their countries of origin (1 to Burundi, 1 to Morocco, 1 to Bangladesh, 1 to India and 2 to Tunisia). After careful planning and coordination with colleagues in country of origin, a migrant from Burundi in a vulnerable situation was successfully reunited with his family. To ensure their safe return and offer psychosocial aid throughout the journey, an operational escort provided by the IOM AVRR accompanied the individual to their country of origin.

Within the project "Strengthen Evidence Based Migration Response through Enhanced Data Collection on Migrants Presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Capacitate the State to Process Returns of Migrants to Their Countries of Origin", funded by Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, on 17 March an AVRR information event was organized in TRC Blažuj. More than 20 migrants attended and received crucial information about voluntary return, useful contacts and platforms.

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: **1,340**

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: **16**

Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: **31**



AVRR INFORMATION EVENT IN TRC BLAŽUJ. ©IOM 2023

Two women, one passion

Maryam is originally from Pakistan. Her migration journey began when she left Pakistan together with her son. She mastered basic sewing skills in Türkiye. These skills enabled her to continue working as a seamstress in Greece. Now living in a temporary reception centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she is an active participant in all IOM sewing activities.

"I was a homemaker in Pakistan. At certain point of my life sewing became my passion. I found my peace here."

Zeba is originally from Afghanistan. She left Afghanistan two years ago with her 16 years old son. After leaving Afghanistan, similar to Maryam, her first destination was Türkiye, where she lived for one year. In Afghanistan, she suffered domestic violence and has been dealing with psychological difficulties ever since. At the reception centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she also takes part in sewing and embroidery activities.

"Spending time here [in the temporary reception centre] makes me feel much better. I learned to sew when I was 14 in Afghanistan. I finished an eight-month sewing course. Here at the center, I have the opportunity to continue to use my sewing skills and to learn embroidery as well."



CREATIVE AND HANDCRAFT ACTIVITIES IN TRCs PROVIDE SPACE FOR
SOCIALIZATION, PRACTICISING AND GAINING NEW SKILLS.

©IOM BIH 2023

The This International Women's Day (IWD), on 8 March 2023, IOM reaffirms its commitment to achieving gender equality for all women and girls, especially those on the move. Gender influences reasons for migrating, who migrates and to where, how people migrate and the networks they use, opportunities and resources available at destinations, and relations with the country of origin. Risks, vulnerabilities and needs are also shaped in large part by one's gender, and often vary drastically for different groups.

Given the gender-specific nature of migration, the following are central to IOM's work:

- advocating for equal rights under the law in employment and mobility;
- combatting discriminatory migration practices;
- understanding how gender affects the types and experiences of migration;
- responding to how gender influences access to social services, economic growth, capacities, risks and vulnerabilities;
- ensuring diversity and inclusiveness in consultations and participation in activities; and
- addressing how migration influences gender roles and relations.

