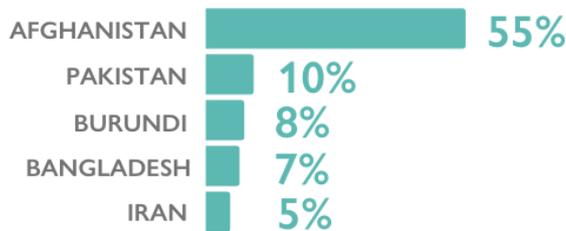
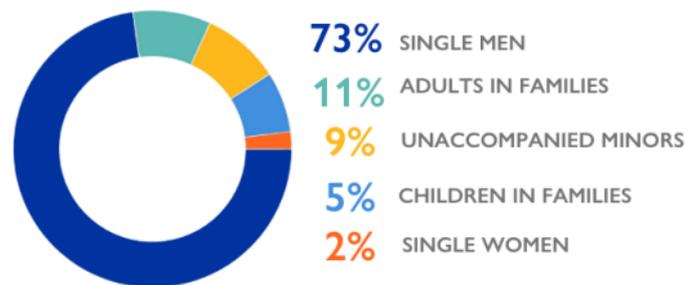


	TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)		
	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	161	580	103
LIPA	241	1,497	23
BLAŽUJ	1,264	1,700	80
UŠIVAK	330	800	31
TOTAL:	1,996	4,577	

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	687				13,358

SITUATION OVERVIEW

IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) provide daily support to migrants to return voluntarily, safely and with dignity to their countries of origin. The support includes pre-departure information and counselling, virtual counselling sessions with IOM teams in their countries of origin, coordination with consular authorities to secure all required documents, and return assistance including transport, escort (when necessary) and post-return support. Family tracing, adequate counselling about the socio-economic situation in their specific region and facilitating the communication with the returnee's family are some of the crucial steps when organizing a person's dignified return.

IOM BiH has facilitated the return of more than one hundred migrants since the beginning of 2022. IOM BiH continued collaboration with other IOM missions in migrants' countries of origin to provide more holistic return and reintegration assistance, building on the strengths and needs of individual migrants and their communities of return. This journey is exemplified in the human story of this week which presents the story of Omar*, who travelled through Türkiye, Greece and the Western Balkans prior to his return to Gambia.



AVRR ASSISTANCE INCLUDES PRE-DEPARTURE SUPPORT, RETURN ASSISTANCE AND POST-RETURN SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS WHO DECIDE TO VOLUNTARILY RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.
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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

In TRC Borići, IOM appointed a social cohesion focal point during the reporting period to establish a more structural approach in mainstreaming the numerous social activities available at the centre. Social cohesion activities aim at bringing closer all the communities present in the centre, improve mutual understanding between migrants and local communities, develop and build migrants personal and professional interests and skills, and overall improve quality of life and wellbeing of residents. A plan of activities covering the period from September through December 2022, with concept notes for each social activity including sport trainings, creative workshops and scheduled events, among other, was also prepared by IOM team.

In TRC Ušivak, a camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) meeting was organized by IOM and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) with representatives of partner organizations active in the centre. Participants at the meeting discussed the concept of fostering the ecological awareness of migrants and introducing new eco-friendly practices as well as eco-waste containers in the centre. One of the first steps will be to initiate waste separation in the kitchen area, specifically to collect plastic and food remains in separate bins.

In TRC Blažuj, coordination issues were discussed at the CCCM meeting with the SFA and partner organizations, such as the expansion of the Green Zone, where young male adults between 18 and 21 years of age are accommodated; the management of medical services, including support for people positive with scabies infection. Since scabies infections were on the rise in TRC Blažuj during the reporting period, IOM organized the distribution of scabies packages which include hygiene items and clean clothes, while the maintenance team worked on the preparation of containers for the isolation unit, where people diagnosed with scabies can stay for 24 hours in isolation. As a result, the centre noted a decrease of scabies infections and an improvement in the health of beneficiaries who were placed in the isolation unit.

In TRC Lipa, IOM and SFA representatives, together with twelve migrants accommodated in the centre, participated in the opening of the exhibition entitled "Migrations: Traces that remain", which was organized by Médecins du Monde (MDM) in the City Gallery Bihać. The exhibition, which takes place from 1 to 9 September, features the creative works of art created by migrants who participated in MDM's empowerment activities in reception facilities over the course of the last three years. The exhibition showed a human side of migration and promotes awareness around the importance of mental health. The works of migrants created within the No Nation Fashion (NNF) creative corner in TRC Lipa were also presented at the exhibition.



CCCM MEETING IN TRC UŠIVAK.

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PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

During the reporting week, IOM's Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams in BiH facilitated a total of 1,060 emergency screenings, through which 92 persons with protection risks and needs were identified. The Protection team provided individual assistance to 60 persons while 545 persons were reached through information provision/awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Borići, the Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team continued its information sharing activities, targeting migrants, regarding the possibility of private accommodation provided by Caritas Italy for families with children in Kakanj. IOM identified one family who expressed interest in the accommodation and then was referred to UNHCR and Vaša Prava for detailed information regarding the asylum process.

In TRC Blažuj, on 1 September, IOM Camp Coordinator held a meeting with seven representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Libya, Iran, and Bangladesh to receive their feedback about their stay in the centre, including the problems they face, and suggested improvements on behalf of their communities. Thanks to the feedback from the community representatives, IOM identified the need to further inform migrants about the registration procedure for documents issued by the SFA. Other topics of discussion included the availability and distribution of non-food items (NFI), importance of maintaining the hygiene, benefits of joining the volunteer system, and use of the complaint, feedback and suggestion mechanism.

The IOM Lipa team, in coordination with the SFA and migrants residing in TRC Lipa, hosted representatives of the Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the City Sports Association of Bihać in the centre. On this occasion, the BiH Football Association handed over sports equipment for football trainings, while the City Sports Association will donate a protective net for the sports field in TRC Lipa. As a sign of gratitude for their donations, a friendly football match was planned but was postponed due to unfavourable weather conditions. The gathering continued with snacks and refreshments for all guests and participants, prepared specially by migrant volunteers.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,060
 # of persons with protection risks and needs: 92
 # of individual assistances: 60
 # of people reached through information sessions: 545



CREATIVE PIECES MADE IN NNF CORNER IN TRC LIPA ARE PRESENTED AT THE EXHIBITION "MIGRATIONS: TRACES THAT REMAIN." ORGANIZED BY MDM.

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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 (DDD) measures, and regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

In TRC Ušivak, one old housing container was rebuilt. IOM maintenance staff completed the floor works by covering the metal framework with a metal lime layer, fresh wooden planks, and a linoleum finish. The roof was also repaired and reinforced with a metal sheet.

During the reporting period, 65 individuals used the Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) services at TRC Ušivak, including 45 mothers and 20 children.

of persons sheltered: 1,996

of persons assisted with laundry services: 1,127



IOM MAINTANCE TEAM REPAIRED A HOUSING CONTAINER AND MADE IT MORE COMFORTABLE FOR ACCOMODAITON.

©IOM BiH 2022

During the reporting period, the team organized 797 information sessions and six psychological first aid (PFA) sessions, 48 transportation services for 203 migrants, and the distribution of 387 food and 23 non-food items. Furthermore, 28 referrals were made to address the identified protection needs of 112 migrants.

A total of 192 migrants accepted accommodation in reception facilities. IOM's Mobile Team transported 26 families comprised of 66 members (48 adults and 18 children) and 12 single women to TRC Borići, 82 single men to TRC Lipa, four families comprised of 15 members (8 adults and 7 children) and ten unaccompanied or separated children (UASCs) to TRC Ušivak and seven single men to TRC Blažuj.

of persons transported: 203

of information sessions: 797



IOM MOBILE TEAM PROVIDING TRANSPORT FOR MIGRANTS IN VELIKA KLADUŠA

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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 Pomozi.ba. In total, 22,365 meals and 6,277 NFI items were distributed during the reporting period.

In TRC Ušivak, the Free Shop, where residents can get free NFIs such as clothes, operated from Monday to Friday and served 221 people.

In TRC Blažuj, welcome packages for newcomers and scabies packages for individuals infected with scabies were prepared and distributed daily, in addition to basic hygiene items for WASH, kitchen items and office items.

of meals distributed: 22,365

of NFIs distributed: 6,277

of people assisted with NFIs: 827

ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

IOM's Mobile Team is present in locations outside of TRCs to increase access to information and services, with the aim to reduce the number of migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings. The mobile team screens for vulnerabilities, provides emergency assistance, and transports migrants to TRCs upon request.

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 week, IOM reached 349 migrants, including 93 migrants in TRCs, and 256 migrants in other locations off-site through information sessions on AVRR. Furthermore, a total of 161 in-depth counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well-informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival. During the reporting period, one family with four members returned to their country of origin (Türkiye).

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,299

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2022: 103

SAFETY & SECURITY

No major incidents were recorded in reception facilities during the reporting week. There were several violations of house rules.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM organized the installation of security cameras in the upper part of the centre to improve security.

Omar's* story

After four years of being on the move and living in seven different countries, Omar* decided to return home, to Gambia, and start his own microbusiness in selling and repairing bicycles through IOM's reintegration assistance.

Omar started working from an early age, selling milk and vegetables at the local market in his hometown. Two decades later, he is re-starting his life and establishing his own small business there.

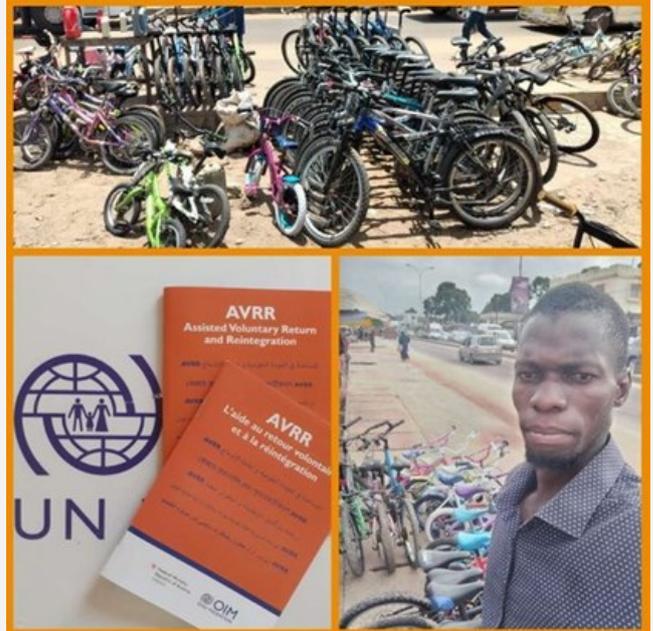
Omar says that the birth of his first child prompted him to search for higher paid jobs and move to Europe to be able to provide for his family. During the time he spent in Türkiye, he mostly worked as a construction worker, very often in extremely demanding work environments. In the beginning he managed to send money to his family every month. After some time, the salary he was receiving started becoming irregular, which forced him to make one of the most dangerous decisions in his life.

Omar embarked on a perilous journey over the Aegean Sea with a few of his friends in a small lifeboat, just slightly larger than an everyday car. After a few days, he reached the coast of Greece, while some of his friends unfortunately died during the attempt. In Greece, during his two-year stay, he did not have many chances to work, so he decided to move again, this time towards the Western Balkans and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

In BiH, Omar started rethinking his current life path and began feeling nostalgic, thinking about everyone and everything he missed over the years back home. While in contact with the IOM Mobile Team in BiH, Omar learned about IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration program. In 2022, he applied for return assistance with IOM at the reception centre where he was accommodated.

*Name was changed to protect privacy

A few weeks later, he was reunited with his family in Gambia. Omar always had a passion for bicycles, which gave him the idea to open his very own bicycle shop. He says that this business offers him a long-term chance to gain a stable income, provide for his family, and watch his child grow up every day.



OMAR* VOLUNTARILY RETURNED TO GAMBIA AND STARTED HIS OWN MICROBUSINESS WITH THE SUPPORT OF IOM AVRR PROGRAMME.

©IOM 2022

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.

