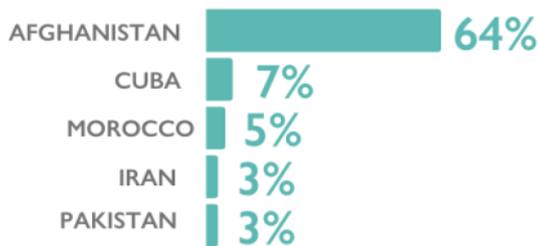


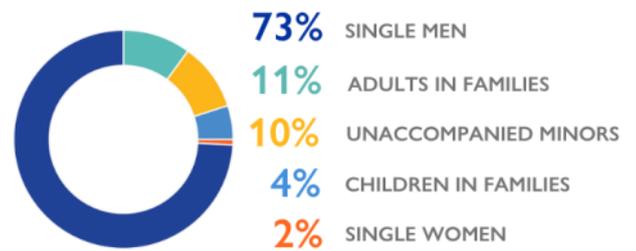


	TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)		
	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	108	580	4
LIPA	132	1,512	11
BLAŽUJ	762	1,700	5
UŠIVAK	227	800	5
TOTAL:	1,229	4,592	

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	2,688	26,865
2023	262												262

SITUATION OVERVIEW

To mark the end of the year, special events and celebrations were organized in all temporary reception centres (TRCs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Students from the Cazin Catering School made traditional sweets from BiH for migrants staying in TRC Lipa during the holidays. Similarly, migrant children staying in TRC Ušivak shared handmade gifts with children from local communities.

Thanks to the mild weather, many activities were organized outdoors with the aim of helping TRC residents maintain active and healthy habits. Dance contests, woodworking, sports and cleaning sprees helped people socialize and keep a positive spirit during the holidays, which can often be a difficult period for migrants away from their families.



FUN AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE ORGANIZED IN TRCs EACH WEEK. THANKS TO MILD AND SUNNY WEATHER OUTDOOR DANCE CONTEST WAS ORGANIZED IN TRC BLAŽUJ. ©IOM 2023

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 26 December 2022 and 8 January 2023, a total of 2,245 new arrivals and 2,550 new departures were recorded in all TRCs in BiH.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM night shift staff organized a New Year's celebration in the evening with many migrants joining the celebration, filled with music and dancing. The arrival of the new year was marked in all TRCs with social festivities.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM CCCM and Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams organized a visit to the local primary school "9 Maj" Pazarić and primary school "Iliđa" on 28 and 30 December, respectively. On these occasions, migrant children who attend the primary schools shared the New Year's gifts with their peers in the class. The activity aimed to promote social cohesion among migrant children and children from the host community.

On 28 December, the Sarajevo Canton Public Health Institution (SC PHI) performed epidemiological and hygiene monitoring in TRC Ušivak. IOM's CCCM team is closely following up with the recommendations, such as raising awareness among migrants on improving hygiene conditions inside the shared accommodation facilities.

In TRC Borići, the Una Sana Canton Public Health Institute (USC PHI) organized a health training covering topics like COVID-19 precaution measures, psychoactive substance abuse, and sexual health on 29 December for nine (5M, 4F) French speaking beneficiaries from Burundi. In addition, the USC PHI representatives assessed the hygiene situation in the centre and reported that it was satisfactory.

In relation to this, IOM continued to implement activities for ecological and environmental protection in TRC Borići. Plastic waste bins were placed on each floor of the building and near working premises to enable the separation of plastic from other waste and consequent recycling. Additional ecological initiatives include the introduction of reusable cups and containers for food and beverages as well as awareness raising activities among the centre's staff and beneficiaries.



CHILDREN FROM TRC UŠIVAK PREPARED GIFTS FOR THEIR CLASSMATES FROM THE HOST COMMUNITY HADŽIĆI.
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PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

IOM's Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams facilitated a total of 950 emergency screenings, through which 123 persons with protection needs were identified. IOM provided individual assistance, including interpretation, logistical support, and referrals to 122 persons while 796 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

Protection and MHPSS team continued to identify and follow up on the overall protection issues and needs like follow up on vulnerabilities (people with impaired health, unaccompanied minors, abandoned children, functioning referral mechanism and case management, etc.), and coordinated protection activities in the four TRCs. Creating and updating a structure of protection and MHPSS support for beneficiaries on one side and focusing on individuals, families and communities on the other side, has produced a comprehensive response to migrant vulnerabilities. During the reporting period, one protection coordination meeting took place, seven community-based activities were organized, and 15 migrants were reached through community-based MHPSS activities.

Focusing on protection factors which enhance mental resilience of people on the move, IOM teams continued to portray and empower migrants in TRCs by supporting their individual talents and strengths. In TRC Blažuj, the team identified a young person who is a painter and used to run his own gallery in Afghanistan. He was provided with tools and encouraged to work on his talent while at the centre. This individual shared a part of his life story through a video recorded in collaboration with the IOM's Communications team, which will be shared through IOM communication channels.

In TRC Blažuj, four sewing and knitting workshops were organized from 2 to 9 January to encourage the socialization of migrants in a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural environment. These workshops contribute towards reduced stress through work therapy, as well as encouraged migrants to express their creativity and improve their sewing skills. Migrants made different clothing items and accessories including wool socks, scarves and knitted hats. A total of 33 beneficiaries from Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Palestine and Morocco participated. Among these participants included an individual who is hard of hearing and was already skilled in sewing.

A creative and interactive workshop entitled "Wishes and Plans for the Next Year" was organized by IOM in TRC Blažuj, in which nine migrants from Afghanistan, Russia and Morocco participated. The participants wrote nine short stories that reflect their wishes and plans for the new year, which were discussed and reflected upon in an interactive conversation.

In TRC Ušivak, the embroidery workshop was organized in coordination with World Vision for 13 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and their guardians. During the workshop, the children had the opportunity to learn embroidery techniques and also enjoyed music and tried to play the guitar.

A total of 69 unaccompanied children were transferred from TRC Blažuj to TRC Ušivak during the reporting week, in close coordination with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), Save the Children and World Vision.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 950

of persons with protection risks and needs: 123

of people reached with information sessions: 796

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 Blažuj, the IOM maintenance team continued to work on the construction of a roof structure for a gazebo, which will be placed next to the Green Zone. This Green Zone is envisioned as a place of various socialization activities for young single adult males between 18 and 21 years of age.

In TRC Ušivak, the maintenance team constructed and installed new wooden floors in two containers which were worn out by continuous use.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: **1,229**

of laundry services: **1,945**



IOM MAINTENANCE TEAM WORKING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROOF STRUCTURE FOR A GAZEBO IN TRC BLAŽUJ.
©IOM BIH 2023

FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM conducted its regular food and non-food items (NFI) distribution activities with partner organizations such as the Red Cross and Pomoziba. Between 26 December and 8 January, a total of 35,875 meals and 2,763 NFIs were distributed.

In TRC Borići, IOM continued the distribution of NFIs, including donated hygiene items and clothes received via the City of Bihać Red Cross and local organisation Žene sa Ume.

In collaboration with UNICEF, winter NFIs (warm clothes) were distributed to 15 children, and 31 New Year's packages with sweets and toys were prepared and distributed to kids.

Packages for treating Scabies infection and individual items were distributed according to identified needs after medical screenings in all TRCs.

of meals distributed: **35,875**

of NFIs distributed: **2,763**

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 43 transportation services for 70 migrants and conducted 179 information sessions.

of persons transported: **70**

of information sessions: **179**



IOM MOBILE TEAM PROVIDING BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES AFTER TRANSPORTATION OF MIGRANTS TO TRC LIPA.
©IOM BIH 2023

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

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

During the period between 26 December and 8 January, IOM reached 197 migrants, of which 69 were in TRCs and 128 migrants in out of site locations, through information sessions on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR). A total of 67 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 voluntary returns in the reporting period. However, eight persons applied for AVRR assistance in the previous week and organization of their voluntary returns is in progress.

IOM and NGO Vaša prava regularly organize legal information sessions with AVRR counsellors for migrants accommodated in TRCs. At these sessions AVRR team provides additional information to migrants about their rights, key details of AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to country of origin.

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: **1,324**

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2022: **128**

Azra's Story

Language is a symbolic system through which people communicate and through which culture is transmitted. During their journey, migrants may face a variety of challenges such as integrating into the host community, xenophobia and language barriers. Mediators and interpreters help not only with the interpretation of spoken words, but also with non-verbal cues, meanings, mentalities and cultural perceptions.

Originally from Pakistan, Azra arrived in Bosnia in Herzegovina (BiH) in 2017 as part of her master's program. In 2018, in the context of the migration emergency response in BiH whereby a surge of migrant arrivals occurred, she started working for a humanitarian organization within one of the temporary reception centers (TRCs). Since then, she has acquired solid work experience and is currently working as an IOM Migrant Protection Assistant and Interpreter. Azra is fluent in Urdu, Farsi, Hindi, Punjabi and Arabic. She is responsible for addressing the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations as well as for the identification, screening, and referral of migrants to adequate and appropriate services.

IOM's cultural mediators and interpreters provide support to facilitate communication between migrants, service providers and relevant institutions, helping to strengthen the protection and assistance available in BiH. Beyond this, cultural mediators and interpreters provide information to migrants on health, social protection and psychological support services and help to improve migrants' understanding of the socio-cultural and legal environment of the host country.

"Communication with the beneficiaries and the messages of encouragement that I can convey to them are daily highlights of my work." Azra, IOM Migrant Protection Assistant and Interpreter.



IOM MIGRANT PROTECTION ASSISTANT AND INTERPRATOR, AZRA ABIDI SYEDA, IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND FACILITATE A SMOOTH CULTURAL MEDIATION PROCESS.
©IOM BIH 2023

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.



This situation report was produced by IOM and includes updates on activities implemented in the context of the mixed migration response in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IOM and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or any of the donors represented.