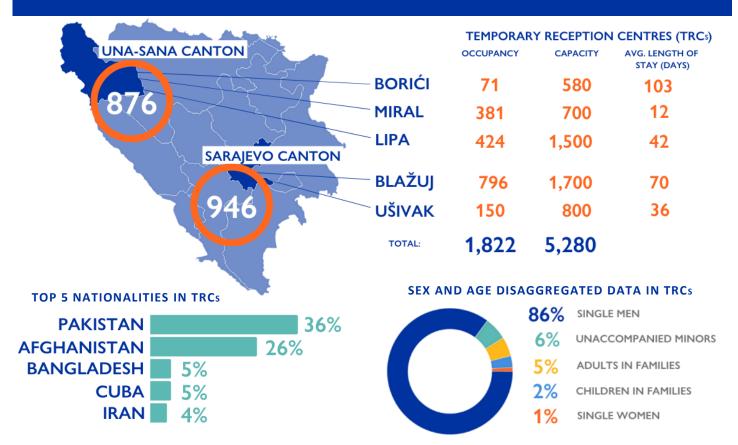
# **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION RESPONSE** SITUATION REPORT

28 MARCH-3 APRIL 2022



### 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	1234										2241

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In accordance with the transition plan between IOM and the Ministry of Security (MoS), the management of security within the TRCs in BiH will be handed over to police authorities as of 10 April. During the transition from private security to state-led security through the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH (DCPB), IOM's Office for Staff Security (OSS) will continue to facilitate issues with an emphasis on information sharing among partners and reception centres residents.

On 30 March, IOM gathered key actors in Banja Luka, including the Ministry of Security (MoS), the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of Republika Srpska, for a presentation of the project "Improving migrant assistance and supporting local communities in Republika Srpska" which is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project activities include the operation of mobile teams, which provide direct assistance and referrals for migrants in transit, especially to the most vulnerable.

Between 29 March and 1 April, thirteen police officers from the cantonal Ministries of Interior, the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Border Police, and the SFA became special educators, based on their completion of the revised special police curriculum on the topic of combating human trafficking in BiH. The training was organized by IOM within the project "Short-term and medium-term support in the field of combating trafficking in human beings in BiH," funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL).



Project Presentation in Banjaluka on 30 March © IOM 2022

## CONTACTS

#### **COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT**

In all TRCs, the weekly Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) meetings organized by IOM and the SFA with partners in the centres focused on the new organizational structure and the increased role of state institutions. IOM will closely monitor service provision and coordinate with partners to ensure that any gaps present during the initial period of transition are addressed.

In TRC Blažuj, BiH's largest reception centre with close to 800 migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees currently accommodated, coordination meetings between IOM, SFA and partner organizations take place every morning to plan daily activities and respond to the needs of beneficiaries. During the reporting period, partners began preparations for the holy Islamic month of Ramadan. IOM developed a monthly and daily schedule of prayers in the form of QR codes. Moreover, the food distribution schedule continues to be adapted and all prayers rooms were painted and cleaned prior to the start of the Ramadan on 2 April.

In TRC Miral, IOM created a pocket edition of Vakti, a prayer calendar for people who fast during Ramadan.

In TRC Borići, allocation of separate rooms for residents started from 1 April to give them more privacy. IOM, SFA, and partner organizations agreed to help guide and support the private room allocation process by providing suggestions of beneficiaries to prioritize.

## PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

In TRC Ušivak, the frequency of arrivals and departures of beneficiaries has increased with the approaching warmer weather, which poses challenges with regards to the inclusion of migrants in the centre's decision-making process. The self-selection method is therefore being applied, with consideration for the representation of members by gender, age, and other characteristics.

In TRC Borići, the food distribution issue involving the school schedule was addressed during the session of the Community Complaint Committee. A vote with all residents was organized on the new schedule, in addition to information shared following the change.

In TRC Boriá, two workshops were organized to bring migrants closer to the local community and promote the sharing of culture and traditions. The first workshop was held by the School of Pedagogy, affiliated with the University of Bihaá, in cooperation with the organisation Udružene žene, during which migrants had a chance to learn about storytelling and writing. The second workshop was held by the organization Igra 27, and included ctivities to explore traditional music, dancing and the composition of a hymn for the TRC.

In TRC Miral, IOM, in coordination with the SFA and partner organization CARITAS, agreed on a weekly schedule for football trainings in Velika Kladuša City Sports Hall for all interested migrants. They will have an opportunity to learn new skills, demonstrate their abilities, meet new people and play football.

# of persons referred to partner organizations by IOM: 45 # of protection/MHPSS services provided by IOM: 2,991

## 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. During the reporting period, 36 persons used the Mother and Baby Washing Unit (MBWU) services, including 21 mothers and 15 children (12 boys and 3 girls).

# of persons sheltered: 1,822

# of persons assisted by the IOM MBWU: 36

# of persons assisted with laundry services: 924



Migrants from TRC MIRAL at the football training in velika kladuša © IOM 2022

## 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, with 19,747 meals and 8,319 NFI items distributed during the reporting period. IOM tracks individual nutrition needs with the support of the medical personnel and provides adapted menus when medically prescribed. In TRC Miral, 20 migrants are on a special diet due to their health conditions.

On 31 March a meeting was organized in IOM's sub-office in Bihać, with the participation of food focal points from TRCs Boriá, Lipa, and Miral, as well as the Una Sana Canton food and nutrition assistant, operations assistant, and representatives of the Red Cross of Bihać. The Ramadan menu was adjusted and enriched to prioritize the moming and evening meals. Fruits, yogurt, flat bread and spreads, canned meat, pies, juice, and noodle soup were added to create a nutritionally wholesome meal.

# of meals distributed: 19,747

# of NFIs distributed: 8,319

# of persons supported with NFI: 717

## ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

The IOM Outreach team is present in locations outside of TRCs to increase migrants' access to information and services, with the aim to reduce the number of migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings. The IOM Outreach team screens for vulnerabilities, provides emergency assistance, and transports migrants to TRCs upon request. During the reporting period, the IOM Outreach team organized 506 information sessions, 46 psychological first aid (PFA) sessions, 41 transportation services for 182 migrants, and distributed 1,118 food items and 1,324 non-food items. A total of 148 migrants accepted accommodation in TRCs and were transported by IOM, including 102 migrants to TRC Lipa, 31 to TRC Borići, and 15 to TRC Miral.

# of persons transported to TRCs: 182

# of information sessions: 506

#### Sara's Story

Every Sunday from 12:00 to 14:00, it's cartoon time in the Mother and Baby Unit in TRC Ušivak. Children from the centre gather and patiently wait for the screening to start. Children speak different languages and it is sometimes a challenge to choose a cartoon that makes everyone happy. Staff aim to meet the different needs of the children over a period of time by choosing languages proportional to the presence of children from different cultures and involving children in the selection process.

One girl explained why she particularly enjoyed the Cartoon "Ugly Duckling":

"My family spent 5 years on the move before we arrived in Bosnia. My childhood was mostly spent in a camp with not so many fun things for children. A cartoon about an ugly duckling in my mother tongue evokes memories of how I used to enjoy watching the same cartoon back home with my family. Because of those memories, sometimes I am happy, and sometimes tears come to my eyes."

Between 6 per cent and 10 per cent of the migrants accommodated in BiH are children under the age of 18 years old. Half of these children are unaccompanied minors or separated.

In a recent survey conducted by IOM, 76 per cent of the minors indicated that they had experienced at least one form of violence, exploitation, or abuse. IOM works with local partners to create nurturing environments where children and parents feel safe.

\*Name has been changed to protect privacy.



CARTOON TIME N TRC UŠIVAK © IOM 2022

#### **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 provided information on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) to 204 migrants in BiH, including 128 in TRCs and 76 in off-site locations. A total of 52 in-depth counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries were well informed and aware of the assistance they can receive before departure, during the travel, and after arrival. During the reporting period, IOM assisted one migrant return to Pakistan. Two AVRR presentations were organized in TRC Lipa and TRC Miral, with 100 migrants participating. The purpose of the events was to provide information about AVRR, how to apply, who to contact and what to expect upon return home.

# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,231

# Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2022: 36

### **SAFETY & SECURITY**

No major incidents were registered in the TRCs during the reporting period. Minor violations of house rules were the most common reported security issue during the week. In coordination with the SFA, IOM is organizing meetings with representatives of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies in BiH

(DPCB) in all TRCs in order to assess the security situation and prepare for the handover between private security companies and the DPCB.



AN AVRR INFORMATION SESSION IN TRC LIPA © IOM 2022

### **MAIN GAPS**

Additional support to the migration response in BiH is needed. The top priority remains funds for food and non-food items for migrants living in TRCs and those sleeping outside of TRCs. Funds are also needed for critical repairs and running costs of TRCs. IOM and its partners are exploring ways to complement funding to ensure preparedness and response to emergencies.

Capacity-building remains a priority to progress towards the overarching goal of ensuring state ownership of the emergency response.



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