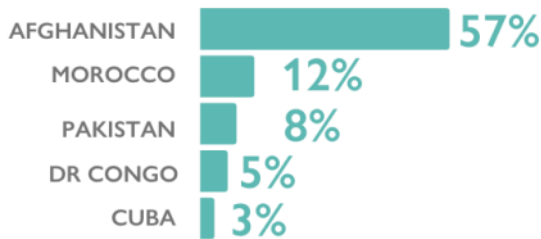
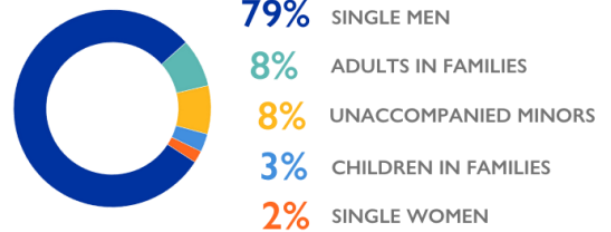


|               | TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs) |              |                            |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|               | OCCUPANCY                          | CAPACITY     | AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) |
| BORIĆI        | 154                                | 580          | 7                          |
| LIPA          | 326                                | 1,512        | 6                          |
| BLAŽUJ        | 508                                | 1,700        | 7                          |
| UŠIVAK        | 131                                | 800          | 9                          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>1,119</b>                       | <b>4,592</b> |                            |

### 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 | 1,363   | 1,460    | 1,960 |       |       |       |       |        |           |         |          |          | 5,201  |

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 21 March, the European Union (EU) donated ten specialized off-road vehicles, to the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB) of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The vehicles will be used for carrying out monitoring activities and supporting joint operational actions, as part of an effective response to the migration situation. In April 2022, with the support of IOM, an important step on the transition towards a state-owned migration response was made when the responsibility for safety and security in Temporary Reception Centers (TRCs) was transferred to the DCPB.

On 24 March, as part of the first Congress of Psychotherapists in BiH, a round table on migration and mental health was organized by IOM, with the participation of actors involved in providing support to mental health in the context of mixed migration. The objective of the roundtable was to address the migration flows in BiH and open a discussion of the context of migration and mental health, looking at practices, challenges and recommendations for protection and support to mental health. More than 30 mental health

professionals attended the roundtable and shared their experiences regarding mental health practice raising awareness of the importance and specificities of mental health protection in the context of migration.



DONATION OF 10 OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, TO THE DIRECTORATE FOR COORDINATION OF POLICE BODIES (DCPB) ©IOM 2023

## CONTACTS

Chief of Mission  
**Laura Lungarotti**, [llungarotti@iom.int](mailto:llungarotti@iom.int)

Information Management and Reporting  
**Programme Support Unit**, [BIH\\_PSU@iom.int](mailto:BIH_PSU@iom.int)

[www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina](http://www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina)

## COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 20 March and 2 April, IOM recorded a total of 2,213 new arrivals and 1,796 new departures in all reception centres in BiH.

All TRCs register higher number of arrivals, which increased by 65.6 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (6-19 March). The flow of migrants remains intense, with the majority of beneficiaries staying only a few days in the centres.

In all TRCs special food arrangements were made to ensure that beneficiaries who fast during Ramadan have access to nutritious meals for breakfast (Sehur) and dinner (Iftar).

In TRC Lipa, as a part of the preparatory actions for holding a joint Iftar, IOM organized a meeting with representatives of the Interreligious Council from Bihać, including representatives of the Catholic Church in BiH, the Orthodox Church in BiH and the Islamic Community in BiH. The Council welcomed the idea to participate in celebrations and mark the upcoming religious holidays in the spirit of goodwill and mutual respect.

IOM facilitated an active engagement of public health institutes in maintaining a satisfactory hygienic and epidemiological situation in reception centres in Una Sana Canton (USC) and in Sarajevo Canton (SC).

It was agreed that representatives of the USC Public Health will visit TRC Borići and TRC Lipa, including the sanitary facilities, dining area and accommodation units, once a month, to observe the hygienic and epidemiological condition and provide expert advice to IOM staff.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM's public health focal point, with support of DRC, took steps to reorganize the accommodation space in the unaccompanied or separated children zone (UASC zone) to implement the preventive measures ensuring separate accommodation for UASC diagnosed with scabies.

Five containers were allocated to accommodate medical cases in the UASC zone. In TRC Blažuj, IOM and DRC agreed on preventive protocols to address potential future public health issues, including bed bugs, scabies, etc. These protocols will be valid for all TRCs.



VULNERABILITY SCREENING FOR NEWLY ARRIVED PEOPLE IN TRC BLAŽUJ.  
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## PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 20 March and 2 April, IOM facilitated a total of 1,320 emergency screenings, through which 159 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 160 persons while 1,239 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

IOM organized Info-Legal sessions in cooperation with Vaša Prava and World Vision in all reception centres during the reporting period. Beneficiaries received information about legal residence in BiH, the process of seeking asylum, and information about the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) assistance.

In TRC Blažuj, creative, recreational, and festive activities were implemented during the reporting period. The activities included sewing, knitting, embroidery, crafts, art creativities, and dancing therapy, attended by migrants from Afghanistan, Morocco, and Pakistan. The sewing and knitting workshops aimed to encourage migrants to express their creativity and improve their skills.

Nowruz is a cultural and traditional festival which is celebrated by various ethnicities across the world. It represents the renewal of nature, symbolizing hope, happiness, and prosperity. In recognition of this special occasion, IOM organized social events which included music and refreshments.

On World Autism Awareness Day, blue cakes were handed out to passers-by in front of the "Drugačiji svijet" Association in Bijeljina. The activity was supported by IOM through the social cohesion program involving local civil society in raising awareness of local population on migration issues and in community building activities.

# of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,320

# of persons with protection risks and needs: 159

# of people reached with information sessions: 1,239

# of referrals to specialized and non-specialized services: 289



WORLD AUTISM DAY WAS MARKED IN BIJEJLINA BY IOM AND PARTNER ASSOCIATION "DRUGAČIJI SVIJET".  
©IOM 2023

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

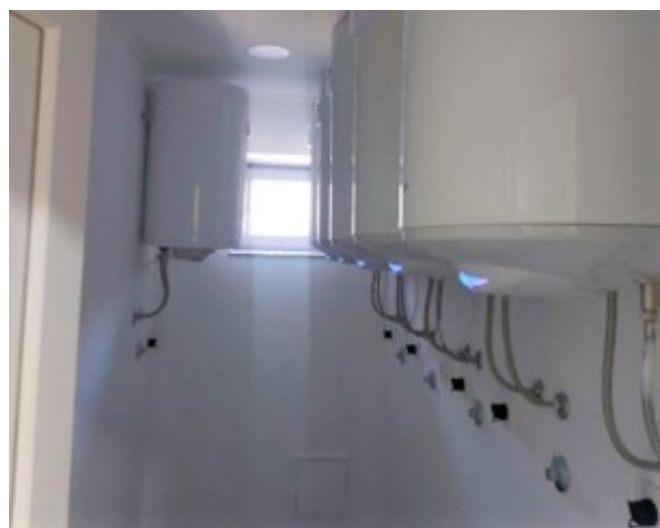
IOM's maintenance and cleaning team inspects all TRC installations daily, with two cleanings per day, weekly disinfection, disinfestation, and derating measures, and regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

In TRC Borić, the site was improved by renovation of the WASH facilities on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the main building. The gender separated WASH facilities now include total of 12 showers and 12 toilets.

In TRC Ušivak, Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) services was used by 124 persons, 61 mothers, 2 single fathers, and 61 children.

Creative activities for children within the MBWU were implemented during the reporting period. The International Children's Book Day was marked in MBWU with children by organizing a book reading activity.

**# of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 1,119**



RENOVATION OF TWO WASH FACILITIES WAS COMPLETED IN TRC BORIĆ.  
©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 Pomozi.ba. During the reporting period, a total of 16,847 meals and 15,239 NFIs were distributed. IOM Migrant Protection Assistants provided daily food in accommodation units for people who are unable to have a meal in the dining room for health reasons.

Representatives of the Islamic Relief organization visited TRC Blažuj during the reporting period and participated in the distribution of 1485 packages to migrants previously donated by the organization, which included 695 hygienic and 690 clothing packages.

**# of meals distributed: 16,847**

**# of NFIs distributed: 15,239**



IOM AND THE ISLAMIC RELIEF DISTRIBUTED THE PACKAGES DONATED BY THE ISLAMIC RELIEF FOR MIGRANTS IN TRC BLAŽUJ.  
©IOM 2023

## 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 69 transportation services for 185 migrants and conducted 629 information sessions.

Between 27 March and 2 April, Afghanistan (54%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Pakistan (13%), Democratic Republic of Congo (6%), and Türkiye and Bangladesh (3% each).

**# of persons transported: 185**

**# of information sessions: 629**

## RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

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

Between 20 March and 2 April IOM reached 536 migrants, of which 230 were in TRCs and 306 migrants in out of site locations, through information sessions on AVR. A total of 104 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 two persons returned to their countries of origin (1 to Pakistan and 1 to Iraq).

On 22 March, the IOM AVR team held a workshop on outreach planning. The main goal of this workshop was to map outreach activities and key locations for the implementation of outreach, as well to set targets and confirm data collection and reporting dynamics regarding AVR outreach.

**# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,342**

**# Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 18**

**# Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 35**

## Jean's\* Story

In March 2023, Jean\*, a 19-year-old, was reunited with his family in Burundi following six months of difficult journey through Ethiopia, Türkiye, Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

The IOM AVRR team in BiH supported Jean to ensure his safe and dignified return. Since his first day in the Temporary Reception Center (TRC) in BiH, the IOM AVRR team, the IOM Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team and partner organizations worked together to provide him with information and support based on the assessed needs during screening procedures. The AVRR process involved arranging travel documents, coordination with authorities and IOM missions in BiH and Burundi, pre-departure information sessions, pre-departure reintegration counselling and tailored psychosocial support.

To provide psychosocial support and tailored return assistance based on his special needs, Jean received the support of an IOM escort during his return travel. Upon his return, Jean was warmly welcomed by his family and community, overjoyed to see their loved one.

*\*The name has been changed to protect privacy*

Jean will be granted with AVRR reintegration support that will enable him to open a small grocery shop and ensure a stable income for him and his family. The IOM AVRR team will continue to provide support to Jean in the form of job trainings and other vocational services, as well as psychosocial support.



JEAN RETURNED HOME IN BURUNDI WITH THE SUPPORT OF AVRR  
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*Since 1979, IOM has been implementing AVRR programmes worldwide as a humane and dignified approach to return and reintegration. Beneficiaries of the AVRR programmes may include stranded migrants in host or transit countries, irregular migrants, regular migrants and asylum seekers who decide not to pursue their claims or who are found not to be in need of international protection. AVRR assistance can be also provided to migrants in vulnerable situations such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated children, or migrants with health needs. The AVRR legal foundations are anchored in international law and rest on two main pillars: Protection of the rights of migrants during the return and reintegration process and State Sovereignty.*

