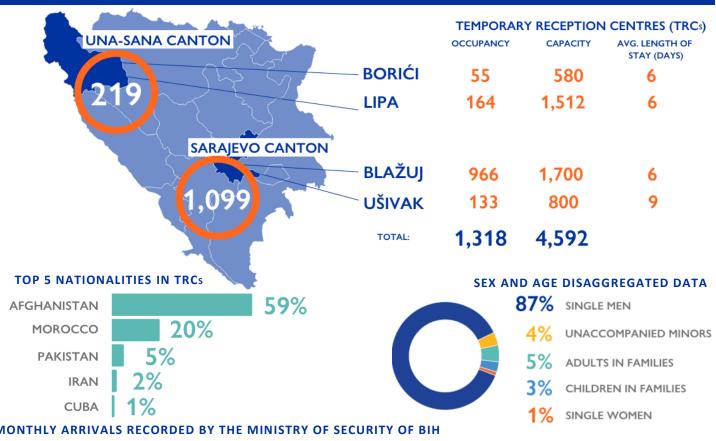
# **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION RESPONSE** SITUATION REPORT

26 JUNE - 9 JULY 2023



MONTHLY ARRIVALS RECORDED BY THE	MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BIH
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	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	1,781	1,460	1,960	2,065	2,893	2,772							12,931

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 30 June, IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) facilitated the visit of representatives from the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and the Ministry of Security (MoS) of BiH to the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the two neighboring countries. The visit was an occasion to exchange experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the management of the mixed migration response, build effective intergovernmental and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, and plan efficient and long-term migration governance solutions.

On 29 June, IOM marked the one-year anniversary of its sub-office in Tuzla. In the past year, thanks to the efficient cooperation with authorities of the Republika Srpska, the BiH MoS and the SFA, IOM has provided crucial assistance to migrants in transit. In total, 1500 migrants were assisted by Mobile Teams Tuzla, 15,000 Non-Food Items were provided, and 600 assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) information sessions were delivered.



IOM FACILITATED A MEETING BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED IN THE MIXED MIGRATION RESPONSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZE-GOVINA. ©IOM 2023

#### **COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT**

Between 26 June and 9 July, IOM recorded a total of 3,207 people who arrived in four temporary reception centres including newly registered and those previously registered who returned for assistance and 3,042 new departures. The flow of migrants remains intense, with most beneficiaries staying only a few days in the centres. A total of 637 new arrivals (first time fully registered) were recorded in the reporting period of two weeks.

Beginning of July, IOM introduced new managerial and coordination structure in Sarajevo Canton (SC) reception centres, TRC Blažuj and TRC Ušivak with the newly appointed Area Coordinator and changes in coordination mechanisms including camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) meetings which will now be held together for both reception centres, to which representatives of all partner organizations operating in both centres will be invited. The new structure will also widen the space for higher involvement of the national institutions and is in line with transition plans to increase ownership of the state over the mixed migration response.

TRC Ušivak faced a significant flash flood due to heavy rain on 4 July, with the wastewater flowing in the form of a stream through the centre, from the upper part down to the lower part towards the unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) Zone. IOM's maintenance team made a temporary fix to stop the flood. In collaboration with Civil Protection Service from Hadžići Municipality, a Fire Company patrol intervened and assessed the upper and lower part of the centre. IOM staff moved UASC to the middle accommodation zone in coordination with World Vision in order to ensure their safety and organized the cleaning of the road and all areas affected by the flood with support of the Utility Company from Hadžići municipality.

Muslim holiday Eid Al Adha was marked in all reception centres on 28 June. Migrants had the opportunity to celebrate, enjoy socializing and traditional pastries. By recognizing and accommodating the religious needs and practices of migrants, IOM promotes an inclusive and supportive environment within the centres.

In TRC Lipa, IOM and the Service for Foreigners Affairs (SFA) continued close cooperation in the implementation of the agreed activities in the transition process within the non-food items (NFI), Food, Shelter and WASH sectors. IOM provided a new Zebra printer in the Information container to resume printing out ID cards in the correct format during the registration process. Furthermore, an additional tablet was also handed over to the SFA to be used by field assistants in order to achieve the best possible efficiency in the performance of daily tasks within the Shelter sector.

# of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,911
# of persons with protection risks and needs: 281
# of individual assistance: 194
# of referrals to specialized and non-specialized services: 473
# of protection coordination meetings held in TRCs: 4
# of community based initiatives and activities supported: 8

### PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 26 June and 9 July, IOM facilitated a total of 1,911 emergency screenings, through which 281 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 194 persons while 1,312 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

IOM organized Accountability to Affected Populations (APP) Refresher Sessions to exchange with staff, including Information Management Assistants, members of the Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team, Mobile Teams, Cultural Mediators, and Migrant Protection Assistants in all reception centres. The session focused on the AAP principles of rights-based assistance and aid effectiveness, and helped highlight good practices and challenges in relations to information sharing and transparency, meaningful participation, feedback mechanisms, partner coordination and leadership

In TRC Ušivak, the IOM CCCM team in coordination with the SFA admitted 88 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) and two families from Afghanistan, following the coordinated relocation from TRC Blažuj to TRC Ušivak by IOM CCCM teams. The admission process was also carried out in coordination with World Vision regarding the legal guardians' support. For UASC whose age was disputable due to lack of documents, at the request of the SFA, a multidisciplinary team composed of psychologist, legal guardian and cultural mediator met regularly to conduct the child-sensitive age assessment interviews and make an approximate age assessment.

IOM CCCM team held a Community Council Representatives meeting in TRC Ušivak on 4 July. The Council consisted of representatives of Afghanistan, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran and Russia community (1 woman and 5 men). The main discussion points during the meeting included satisfaction of beneficiaries with the services provided by IOM and activities suggested by beneficiaries. Representatives agreed that more recreational activities such as music and sports, particularly the gym, would be preferable. Women migrant representative put on record that educational activities for adults would be a great addition. IOM informed that all suggestions will be considered, and feedback provided for the next meeting.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM Protection and MHPSS team provided 23 individual protection assistances to migrants during the reporting period. The assistance included referring 14 beneficiaries in need of immediate NFI, assisting six vulnerable migrants with accommodation, provision of psychological first aid (PFA) to one migrant, and one missing person report assistance.

In TRC Borići, IOM Protection and MHPSS team actively monitored, provided assistance and offered necessary services for three protection sensitive cases, including a young boy facing mobility difficulties. Understanding the importance of contributing to making his daily activities easier, the team offered comprehensive assistance including mobility devices and modifications to the living environment, enabling him to navigate essential spaces such as restroom and dining area more independently.

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

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

Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) services were used by 73 beneficiaries, 37 mothers, and 36 children (24 female and 12 male), and 41 bags of clothes have been washed. Regular cleaning of MBWU premises and the area around the unit was conducted daily.

In TRC Blažuj, a total of 43 young men were accommodated in the Green Zone (receives young men between 18 and 21 years of age) and 31 have subsequently departed from the Zone during the week 3-9 July. In collaboration with UNFPA, IOM staff conducted daily monitoring of the accommodated migrants.

# of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 1,318

# of laundry services: 1,000

## 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 Pomozi.ba. During the reporting period, a total of 32,103 meals and 15,684 NFIs were distributed.

In TRC Lipa, IOM and the SFA staff continued with their close cooperation in transition process within the Food sector. The SFA field assistants electronically recorded distribution of breakfast during the reporting period in the presence of IOM food focal point for potential assistance.

During the reporting period, Vivia company delivered 45 gallons of water to TRC Blažuj.

In TRC Borići, in cooperation with the SFA, all partner organizations organized a small gathering with a light buffet and refreshments for all TRC Borići residents on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, religious festival of sacrifice celebrated by Muslims worldwide.

# of meals distributed: 32,103

# of complimentary baby food distributed: 391

# of NFIs distributed: 15,684



IOM'S MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING TEAM QUICKLY RESPONDED TO DAMAGE IN TRC UŠIVAK CAUSED BY THE FLOOD ON 4 JULY.

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#### 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.

During the reporting period, IOM's mobile teams provided 48 transportation services mainly to reception centres for 162 migrants and conducted 369 information sessions.

Afghanistan (45%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Pakistan (17%), India (10%), Nepal and Türkiye (7% each), the Democratic Republic of Congo (5%), Morocco (4%), Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (less than 3% each) and Iran (less than 1%).

# of persons transported: 162

# of information sessions: 369

## **RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS**

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

Between 26 June and 9 July, the IOM assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) team reached 696 migrants, including 402 in reception centres and 294 migrants in out-of-site locations, through information sessions on AVRR. In the reporting period one individual returned to the country of origin (Türkiye). Additionally, one Virtual Counselling (VC) session was organized with IOM India for two beneficiaries whose return planning is in progress. The purpose of this event was to obtain more information about possibilities in the country of origin upon return, such as country-specific information on employment, training, business opportunities and the school system. These inputs will help in tailoring reintegration assistance for these individuals.

# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,361 # Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 37



Info session for migrants on AVRR, protection and legal issues organized in cooperation with UNHCR's partner organization Vaša prava ©IOM 2023

# More then a job - Edina's Story about her experience in IOM

and aultures. For me, this job was the best decision of my life." - Edina, IOM 's movements." - Edina, IOM's Maintenance and Cleaning Team Maintenance and Cleaning Team

Edina is employed as an IOM staff within the Maintenance and Cleaning team and has been working in the Temporary Reception Center (TRC) Ušivak since its opening in 2019. From the very beginning, she has been involved in the establishment of reception center units, especially in activities related to hygiene maintenance of the migrant accommodation area. Daily, the IOM Maintenance and Cleaning team inspects all TRC installations, with two cleanings per day, weekly disinfection, disinfestation and derating (DDD) measures, and regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

"Before working within the IOM team in the reception center Ušivak, I had no idea "My favourite part of the day is when I dean up the family part of the center, and how different my life would become. A life filled with countless encounters, life stories migrant children sing songs to me in different languages while imitating my

> Edina explains that there are also challenging moments when a lot of strength and effort is needed, moments when the human hand cannot influence the sequence of events. As an example, she describes the large floods that occurred in TRC Ušivak and partially damaged few of the centre's zones while destroying important installations. Thanks to the team effort, the IOM's maintenance and cleaning team managed to swiftly repair installations, dean and disinfect the accommodation area and ensure the safe return of migrants to the accommodation units. Despite the fatigue, Edina was pleased that once again, together with her team, she has shown the same motivation, spirit and love for her job.



IOM'S MAINTENACNE AND CLEANING TEAM IN TRC UŠIVAK. ©IOM 2023



EDINA SELIMANOVIĆ GOSTO JOINED IOM'S MAINTENANCE TEAM IN 2018.













