



34 municipalities
in
4 cantons in FBiH and
6 regions in RS



118
locations
covered



235 migrants
estimated
outside TRCs

This report surveys the migrant² population currently not accommodated in any official Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to provide insight into their profiles, needs and intentions. This is done by interviewing migrants and key informants in locations where migrants are known to gather outside TRCs. Thirteen teams of 57 total data collectors from IOM, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA)¹ and the Red Cross Society of BiH (RCSBH) collected the data on 8 June 2023 in 118 unique locations across the country.

KEY FINDINGS

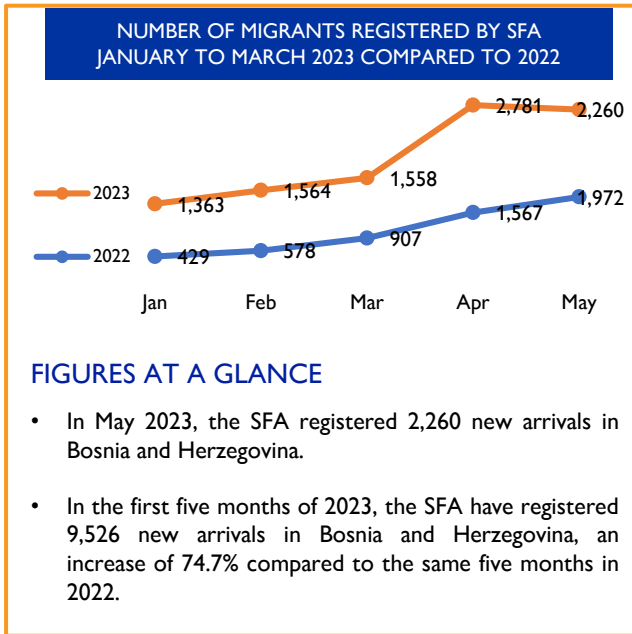
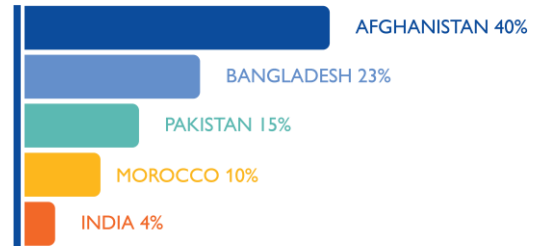
In total, IOM collected data on 235 migrants outside of official temporary reception centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Migrants continue arriving in large numbers, spend very little time in the country and transit rapidly through the territory to cross the border into the European Union.

In this round, IOM visited 118 different locations across Bosnia and Herzegovina with a focus on active transit locations, such as bus stops. IOM met and interviewed 179 migrants in this round. The estimate of 235 migrants is established through data triangulation with key informants (see methodology).

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES AND LOCALIZATION

Afghan nationals were the most represented nationality, making up almost half (40%) of the sample. Bangladeshi nationals were the second most represented nationality at 22.8 per cent of the total sample.

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES



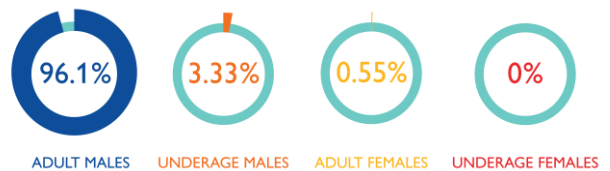
FIGURES AT A GLANCE

- In May 2023, the SFA registered 2,260 new arrivals in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- In the first five months of 2023, the SFA have registered 9,526 new arrivals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, an increase of 74.7% compared to the same five months in 2022.

Migrants outside of temporary reception centres used to squat in buildings or camp in parks or rural areas. However, the tendency now, similar to previous round, is to stay in private accommodation or in TRCs for a couple of days then move quickly towards the exist points of the country by using taxis and/or buses. Migrants attempt border crossings very late at night or in the morning before dawn in the border regions in Una-Sana Canton and around Banja Luka.

Pakistani nationals made up 15 per cent of survey respondents. Nationals of Morocco were the fourth most represented nationality in this round at 10 per cent, while nationals of India made up 3.9 per cent of the sample. Nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2.8%), the Syrian Arab Republic (2.8%), Algeria (2.2%) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (0.6%) made up the remainder of the sample.

SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA



Consistent with trends in previous rounds, the majority (96.7%) of the sample are adults, while children made up the remaining 3.3 per cent. This is a significant decrease in the number of children compared to the previous round, when they made up 12.6 per cent of the sample. Adult men represented 96.1 per cent of the sample while adult women made up 0.6 per cent.

The children came from Bangladesh (66.6%), and Afghanistan (33.3%).

1. The SFA, within the Ministry of Security (MoS), is the responsible body for the registration of all foreigners on the territory of BiH, including the issuing of attestations of those expressing the intention to seek asylum. The MoS is also formally responsible for the management of the Immigration Centre and the TRCs.

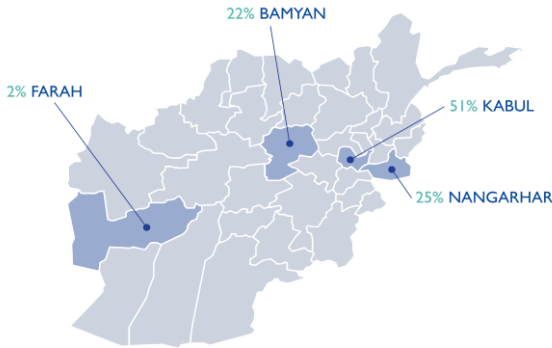
2. No document checks are carried out during the data collection to confirm the statements. Interviewees therefore include asylum seekers and refugees.

3. Data retrieved from the [IOM's Flow Monitoring Portal](#)



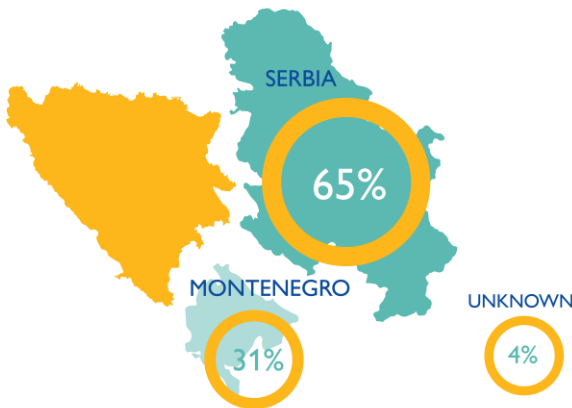
Afghans continue to arrive in large numbers in the Western Balkans. According to the Ministry of Security, they are the top nationality of arrivals in Bosnia and Herzegovina with over 4,300 registrations to date, making up 43 per cent of all arrivals. The main provinces of origin in Afghanistan were Kabul, Nangarhar, Bamyán and Farah.

MAIN AFGHAN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN

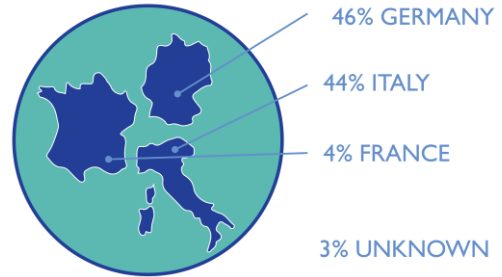


According to data from Round 21, Serbia and Montenegro remain the main entry points to Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 65.5 per cent of respondents declaring that they entered from Serbia and 31.3 per cent from Montenegro. Compared to the previous round, entries from Montenegro have increased compared to entries from Serbia.

COUNTRY OF ENTRY

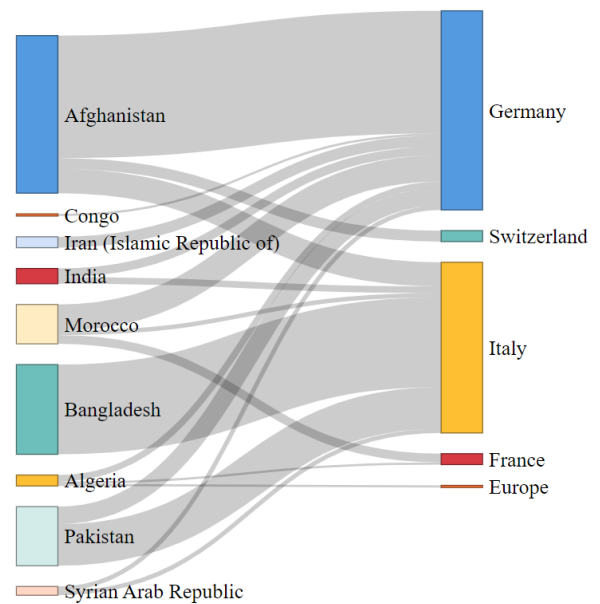


INTENDED DESTINATIONS



Intended destination countries generally vary among different nationalities. As is shown in the chart below, Afghan nationals largely state that Germany is their country of intended destination, while most nationals of Morocco stated and Pakistan stated Italy.

INTENDED DESTINATION COUNTRY BY NATIONALITY



INTENDED DESTINATIONS

In round 21, almost half (46.1%) of survey respondents said their intended final destination country was Germany, while 43.8 per cent stated Italy (41 per cent increase compared to the previous round) and 3.9 per cent stated France. Only 2.2 per cent of respondents stated that Switzerland was their intended country of destination. The remainder of the respondents (0.6%) reported Europe as their final destination.

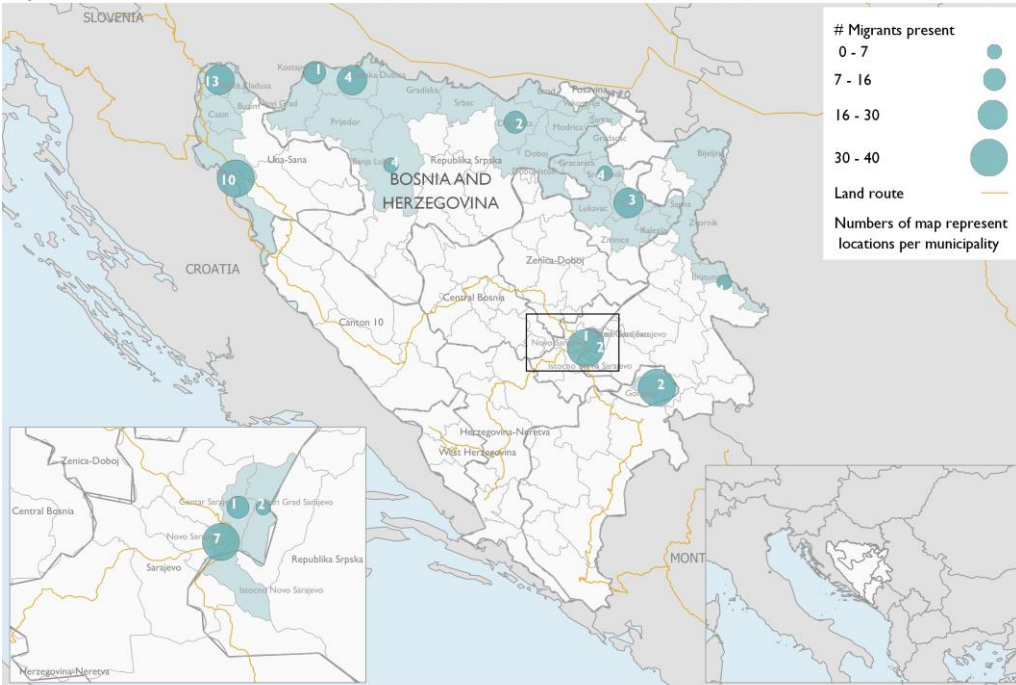


MIGRANT PRESENCE OUTSIDE RECEPTION

Bosnia and Herzegovina
08 June 2023

Est. 235 MIGRANTS OUTSIDE TRANSIT
RECEPTION CENTERS*

118 Assessed locations in
4 Cantons in FBiH 6 Regions in RS 34 Municipalities



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. Source Data : IOM, BiH Authorities

HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

The questionnaire captures information on specific individual conditions and vulnerable groups among the migrants. These groups include unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) between 15 and 17, UASC under 15, children under 5, elderly persons over the age of 60, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and women travelling alone. In this round, there were six UASC between 15 and 17 years of age.

This data collection exercise also attempts to identify potential medical problems among migrants staying outside TRCs. This is to understand if there are unmet health needs and if people in need of medical attention have indeed received medical assistance in the previous two weeks. This month, there were 17 people with medical problems, two of whom reported having unmet medical needs in the past two weeks. The most frequently cited medical problems were related to blisters on the feet and bronchitis.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Sarajevo Canton had the highest proportion of migrants interviewed in this round, with 33 per cent of the sample surveyed there. This was followed by the Una-Sana Canton at 27.9 per cent, a 6.1 per cent increase from the previous round. Just over one-fifth (21.8%) of the respondents were interviewed in Bosnian Podrinje, a 21 per cent increase from the previous round. Tuzla saw a significant decrease with 12.9 per cent of migrants interviewed there, but not so significant as it is the case with Republika Srpska, where 4.5 per cent were interviewed (15.7 per cent decrease from the previous round).

REFERRAL INFORMATION

Migrants move rapidly through Bosnia and Herzegovina in an attempt to cross the border into the European Union. None of the survey respondents expressed an interest in remaining in Bosnia and Herzegovina with recognized legal status, residence permit, work permit and the possibility of family reunification.

Over three quarters (76%) of the respondents declared that they were aware of the option of assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) to their countries of origin.



Picture 1. IOM enumerators speaking with migrants in BiH.



METHODOLOGY

The IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system used to capture and monitor displacement and population movements, and to disseminate information regularly and systematically. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, DTM collects data on registrations by nationality at entry points, and data on the number of migrants present in Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs). This data has been collected since 2017 as part of the broader monitoring of mixed migration flows through the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean routes to Europe. Since March 2021, DTM in BiH has also been collecting data on migrants' presence outside reception centres and Flow Monitoring Surveys with migrants in reception.

Design of the data collection – Round 21

Geographical coverage

In round 21, the IOM chose 34 municipalities in four Cantons of the FBiH and in six regions of Republika Srpska due to their well-known high presence of migrants. In total, the teams visited 118 unique locations with specific geo-referenced coordinates – known as micro-locations – in 34 different municipalities. In FBiH, the teams visited 27 locations in four municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, 10 locations in three municipalities in Sarajevo Canton, 25 locations in nine municipalities in Tuzla Canton, and two locations in one municipality in Bosnian Podrinje. In Republika Srpska, the teams visited 54 locations in 18 municipalities (see Map on page 3).

Target population

Migrants travelling in Bosnia and Herzegovina outside TRCs. Migrants accommodated in official TRCs were excluded.

Time frame

Round 21 was carried out on 8 June 2023.

Enumerators

Thirteen teams for a total of 25 enumerators (15 male, 10 female), with language skills in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto, together with 11 staff from the Red Cross Society BiH (9 male, 2 female), 11 inspectors from the SFA (7 male, 6 female).

Data collection methods

The questionnaire is available in paper form and as an online/mobile Kobo form in English. The questionnaire consists of five main sections: Total estimated presence of migrants outside TRCs in one location; sex and age breakdown for the top five nationality groups; main vulnerabilities and health issues; main Routes, transport, destinations; interest in referral and further information. Starting in round 5, IOM added an additional question on the main provinces of origin of migrants from Afghanistan, in light of the displacements triggered by the Taliban takeover of the country.

Starting from Round 13, the IOM introduced a second methodology based on data triangulation. Triangulation refers to triple verification by interviewing at least three key informants residing in the locations visited to obtain more accurate estimates.

These key informants can be migrants or local residents and must be independent of each other. The first methodology collected information at the stock level, carrying out group and not individual interviews, thus leading to possible inconsistencies.

This second methodology therefore increases the possibility of estimating the actual population in outside locations, which may not be present at the time of data collection, as some locations are reached at times of the day when migrants are more mobile. In this round, IOM teams interviewed 179 individual migrants, and based on the data triangulation methodology, estimates the presence of 235 migrants outside temporary reception centres.

Limitations

The IOM builds on its pre-established presence in a selected number of municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on its activities covering the whole country to provide an estimate of the migrant population outside TRCs at a specific point in time. The data collection exercises are conducted in the context of the following limitations:

1. The geographical coverage was limited to a select number of locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since the inception of the project in 2021, thanks to the addition of cantons in FBiH and five regions in the entity of RS, the IOM's geographical coverage has significantly increased. Due to the high mobility of irregular migrants during the summer period, some new locations may not have been visited during the exercise.
2. The SFA's presence during the data collection exercise facilitates access to some locations but may hinder migrants' participation in other locations and/or may cause some bias in migrants' replies to the questions.
3. Data collected using the second methodology is an estimate, which, in combination with the first methodology, will help to obtain a more accurate picture of the number of migrants outside. Having more accurate estimates of the number of people outside TRCs allows IOM, state authorities and humanitarian actors to better provide tailored assistance to those in need.
4. As the exercise attempts to collect data and support migrants outside formal reception facilities, it can be impacted by inclement weather. Cold or wet weather conditions may make it more likely that migrants stay indoors in private facilities or seek temporary accommodation in TRCs.

The IOM is committed to continually and accurately monitoring the locations where migrants usually reside, with the support of other humanitarian organisations. These can change rapidly, in line with the seasons and routes, but also due to other factors (e.g., smuggling and trafficking networks), which have a significant impact on the number of migrants and locations identified through the data collection exercise.