

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION RESPONSE SITUATION REPORT 25 DECEMBER 2023 - 7 JANUARY 2024

UNA-SANA CANTON		TEMPORAR OCCUPANCY		ON CENTRES (TRCs) (AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
	– BORIĆI	317	580	11
1,615	LIPA	1,298	1,512	6
SARAJEVO CANTON				
	– BLAŽUJ	867	1,700	6
1,215	[–] UŠIVAK	348	800	8
	TOTAL:	2,830	4,592	
TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs		SEX AND		AGGREGATED
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (THE)			78 %	SINGLE MEN
могоссо 18%			8%	ADULTS IN FAMILIES
afghanistan 15%		_	6%	CHILDREN IN FAMILIES
			7%	UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
			1%	SINGLE WOMEN
MONTHLY ARRIVALS RECORDED BY THE MINIST	RY OF SECU	RITY 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
018	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
021	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	3,967	3,542	4,734	3,487	2,491	3,257	34,409
2024													

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In 2023, in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), 34,409 arrivals were recorded by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), representing an increase of 25 per cent compared to the total number of arrivals recorded in 2022 (27,429). To efficiently address the needs of the beneficiaries and provide effective services, IOM continuously worked to improve systems in the temporary reception centres (TRCs).

In TRC Blažuj, in the last week of December, IOM relocated the info container from the centre's main area to the entrance, just in front of the pre-registration zone, which will increase access to essential information for all. To improve the emergency screening process, another container was moved from the upper part of the centre to the entrance area.

To mark the end of the year and the Catholic and Orthodox Christmas, special events and celebrations were organized in all TRCs in BiH. In TRC Lipa, IOM, in coordination with the SFA, organized traditional Christmas lunches on 25 December and 7 January for migrants accommodated in the center.



NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION FOR CHILDREN WITH MUSIC, ANIMATIONS AND CAKES IN TRC UŠIVAK. ©IOM 2023

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BIH MIGRATION RESPONSE

COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 25 December 2023 and 7 January 2024, IOM recorded a total of 5,246 people arriving to four temporary reception centres, including newly registered persons and those previously registered and returning for assistance. This represents an increase of 23.3 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (11 - 24 December 2023). There were 4,533 new departures, which represents a 4.6 per cent increase.

In TRC Blažuj, in coordination with IOM and the SFA, the Red Cross of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) delivered a container equipped with sanitary facilities that will be used as a space to provide medical services. The container is strategically positioned adjacent to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) infirmary, centralizing medical services in one area to facilitate easier navigation for migrants seeking medical assistance within the centre. The remaining three containers, previously used for similar purposes, will be repurposed as storage and office space for the Red Cross FBiH staff working in TRC Blažuj.

The practice of daily cleaning activities with the active participation of migrant volunteers was maintained in TRC Blažuj. Migrants were encouraged to join in the upkeep of their living spaces and surroundings. This practice is part of a broader strategy to increase awareness about the benefits of maintaining hygiene in a collective accommodation.

In TRC Borići, with the onset of cold temperatures, IOM conducted inspections of all radiators in the accommodation rooms and made repairs where necessary to ensure optimal temperatures inside the shelter.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM, in coordination with the SFA, admitted 143 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), 11 families and three single women, following the relocation from TRC Blažuj to the family oriented TRC Ušivak to provide tailored assistance for beneficiaries in a vulnerable situation. The admission process for UASC population was carried out in coordination with the World Vision and with legal guardians' support. In addition, IOM organized school transportation for nine children attending classes in two local primary schools in Ilidža and Pazarić.

Between 25 December 2023 and 7 January 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 2,541 emergency screenings, through which 579 persons with protection needs were identified. IOM provided individual

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

with protection needs were identified. IOM provided individual assistance, including interpretation and logistical support (such as orientation at the TRCs, provision of documents) to 642 persons while 2,301 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Blažuj, the IOM's Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team facilitated information provision for migrants regarding their legal status in BiH. Additionally, they were introduced to asylum procedures and the assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) program.

Across all reception centres, IOM provided 27 medical transports for beneficiaries. After receiving medical assistance, the migrants were transported back to TRCs.

In TRC Ušivak, the Feedback and Complaint Committee meeting was held on 26 December. The meeting was led by IOM with the attendance of World Vision representative and two women from the Syrian Arab Republic who are migrant community representatives. The committee reviewed one complaint which referred to the Non-Food Items (NFI) distribution process. The Committee members discussed the complaint, and the response will be provided in accordance with the standard operational procedures. In TRC Ušivak, - an informative session on legal processes was held in cooperation with IOM and NGO Vaša Prava for beneficiaries from Iran and Afghanistan. The beneficiaries received information about legal residence in BiH, the process of seeking asylum, and information about assisted voluntary return. A Mine Risk Education/Awareness session was held by IOM in TRC Ušivak on 28 December, where 5 migrants (3 women and 2 men) from Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan participated. The translation into Panjabi, Urdu and Pashto languages was provided by IOM interpreters. The participants indicated that they had observed landmine signs during their movements, which highlights the importance of continuous mine risk awareness raising to enhance the safety of migrants in BiH.

of new arrivals: 5,246



of emergency screenings in TRCs: 2,541

Pre-registration process in the newly set info container in TRC Blažuj. ©IOM 2023



COMPLAINT AND FEEDBACK MECHANISM SESSION IN TRC UŠIVAK. ©IOM 2023

BIH MIGRATION RESPONSE

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 Ušivak, IOM continued work to ensure better safety and privacy within the shelter. Based on recommendations received from migrants during Community Participation Meetings, 11 doorknobs and locks with internal locking have been installed at the sanitary containers in the family zone of the centre. This activity improved the conditions within Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 2,830

of laundry services: 2,163

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 74,164 meals and 8,681 NFIs were distributed.

In TRC Lipa, due to recent high demand and consumption of blankets and duvets, IOM agreed with the representatives of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the City of Bihać Red Cross and the Una Sana Cantonal Red Cross to renew the centre's stock with their support. As a result, a donation of 500 blankets was received in the NFI warehouse.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM provides food for migrants with health conditions inside their accommodation units. During the reporting period, three persons were assisted in having meals in their accommodation due to their different health concerns.

of meals distributed: 74,164

of NFIs distributed: 8,681

complementary baby food distributed: 697



AVRR INFO SESSION IN TRC UŠIVAK. ©IOM 2024

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. The mobile teams screen for vulnerabilities, provide emergency assistance, make referrals when necessary and provide transportation services for migrants to TRCs upon request. During the reporting period, IOM's mobile teams provided 82 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 212 migrants and conducted 206 general information sessions.

The Syrian Arab Republic (55%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Morocco (21%) and Afghanistan (13%), Egypt (5%), and Sierra Leone (4%).

of persons transported: 212

of information sessions: 206

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

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

Between 25 December 2023 and 7 January 2024, the team reached 250 migrants of which 146 were being hosted in TRCs and 104 migrants from other locations off-site with information sessions on assisted voluntary return and reintegration. The outreach activities are implemented daily in distant regions within Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Una-Sana cantons, with the objective to reach as many migrants as possible and provide information about AVRR, but also guarantee the swift directing towards protection services. A total of 151 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 returns to countries of origin in this reporting period. However, the trend of increased interest in AVRR continues to be reported and 11 persons applied for voluntary return in the past two weeks.

AVRR counsellors regularly participate in legal information sessions organized together with IOM Protection and UNHCR partner local organization Vaša prava for migrants accommodated in TRCs. At these sessions AVRR team provides additional information about the rights, key details of AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to their country of origin. In cooperation with the World Vision, AVRR team in TRC Ušivak has started with organization of info sessions for UASC.

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2023: 96, M: 89, F: 7

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,420, M: 1255, F: 165

Osmane, singer and musician from Guinea

Osmane is a singer and a musician. He sings, writes his own songs and was very popular, having concerts everywhere in his country. Osmane fled from Guinea and had a difficult and challenging migration journey; his feet were severely injured after he had walked in the snow through the mountains for several days. Even though he has encountered many hardships, his will and motivation to hold concerts again remain intact.

"I practice every day, I put my instrumental on and I sing the music I wrote by myself. Yes, I am a kind of a poet. In the future I see myself as a singer, I hope to become a good one," says Osmane.

Among many others, Osmane's compelling history, dreams, and aspirations have been captured through the lens of Franco Pagetti for the "Wearin'it together! A journey of inclusion through fashion" photographic No Nation Fashion exhibition and campaign powered by IOM.

The exhibition approaches the topic of migration through innovative, creative and a refreshing perspective —focusing on individual stories, personalities and achievements of migrants and refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

The unique approach of the campaign offers individual stories of migrants, their remembrance of the past and strivings for the future, breaking down stereo-types and embracing people's differences, diversity and multiculturality.



Osmane's compelling story has been captured through the lens of Franco Pagetti for #WearinitTogether. ©Franco Pagetti 2023

Discover Osmane's journey and celebrate the potential of fashion for inclusion at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina until 15 January 2024.







MINISTARSTVO SIGURNOSTI BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA





Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy





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.