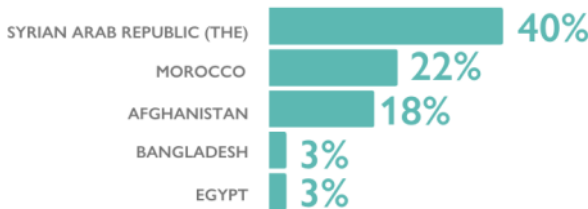


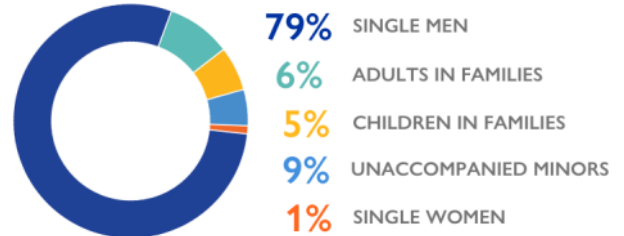
TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	322	580	11
LIPA	1,532	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	890	1,700	6
UŠIVAK	380	800	8
TOTAL:	3,124	4,592	

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs



SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED



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	1,781	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	1,753												1,753

SITUATION OVERVIEW

IOM continues to work with its partners to provide essential services to all migrants in need, particularly amid winter. With close to 5,000 beds available across four Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), shelter and assistance have been provided to all migrants in need of accommodation. In addition, concrete actions have been taken in line with winterization procedures, such as the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and clothing for the winter; infrastructure maintenance, and the installation of new or additional heating systems in all TRCs.

On 9 January, as part of the No Nation Fashion brand, IOM presented the capsule clothing collection "7,689 km - from Kabul to Berlin", at an event organized with POLIMODA as part of this year's Pitti Immagine Uomo in Florence. The name of the collection emphasizes migrants' journey from Kabul to Berlin, transiting through BiH, and is inspired by their human stories, lives and aspirations.



THE FIRST NO NATION FASHION CAPSULE COLLECTION "7,689 KM - FROM KABUL TO BERLIN" IS INSPIRED BY HUMAN STORIES. ©IOM 2024

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 8 and 21 January 2024, IOM recorded a total of 4,138 people arriving to four temporary reception centres, including newly registered persons and those previously registered and returning for assistance. This represents a decrease of 21.1 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (25 December 2023 - 7 January 2024). There were 3,839 new departures, which represents a 15.3 per cent decrease.

The longer average stay in reception centres in the reporting period can be attributed to cold winter conditions, which puts an additional demand for IOM to ensure that all migrants receive protection-sensitive reception and immediate assistance. In addition to the established working hours for the regular distribution of NFI, NFI - hygiene packages and bedding were available 24 hours a day for newly arrived migrants so that basic hygiene needs of migrants are met right upon arrival.

In TRC Borići, IOM in coordination with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and World Vision, reorganized the existing accommodation units to adjust to an increasing number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) arriving in the centre. Two containers previously used for social activities in the UASC zone were equipped with beds and will serve as accommodation units.

In TRC Lipa, IOM provided additional assistance to the Red Cross during meal distributions to facilitate faster service. IOM, the SFA and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB) representatives organized the distribution line within the dining room to reduce waiting time in queues, ensuring that all safety measures are fully respected. Within the Non-Food Items (NFI) sector, ten bunk beds were delivered from TRC Borići, for the purpose of furnishing and preparation of accommodation units for new arrivals. In addition, a total of 100 mattresses were delivered from the IOM Central Warehouse.

During the reporting period, TRC Blažuj hosted the Area Interagency Coordination Meeting for the Sarajevo Canton. The meeting was organized by IOM in cooperation with the SFA and was attended by representatives of all organizations that provide services in TRC Blažuj and TRC Ušivak. The meeting served as a platform for exchanging information, discussing trends, and addressing challenges encountered in operational activities.

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 8 and 21 January 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 2,181 emergency screenings, through which 462 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 492 persons while 2,035 individuals were reached through information provision and awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Borići, the IOM's Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) provided assistance to several cases, including a family with a child with development difficulties. Additionally, special care was taken to ensure they were accommodated in a room that would grant easy access to all services available in the centre.

In TRC Blažuj, Mine Risk Education/Awareness class was organized for ten migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM organized a Community Participation Meeting on 16 December, with the aim of ensuring that the services align closely with the needs of the migrant population residing in the centre. Twelve migrants (9 women and 3 men) from the Syrian Arab Republic, Iran, and Türkiye, participated and provided feedback concerning Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions in the centre. IOM will actively seek appropriate solutions and will inform the migrants of the actions being taken to address the reported problems. Participants have also reached a consensus to collaboratively increase efforts in raising awareness of house rules and ensure good hygiene conditions in the WASH facilities.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM staff organized a guitar workshop in coordination with World Vision for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) on 19 January. Seven children from Afghanistan and Egypt attended the workshop where they were introduced to basic guitar playing techniques. Guitar workshops are organized in TRC Ušivak for all interested children every week.

of new arrivals: **4,138**

of emergency screenings in TRCs: **2,181**



IOM STAFF IN TRC LIPA PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES.
©IOM 2024



DEMAND FOR ACCOMMODATION AND ASSISTANCE IN RECEPTION CENTRES HAS RISEN IN WINTER MONTHS.
IOM PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES IN TRC BLAŽUJ.
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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.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: **3,124**

of laundry services: **2,288**

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 98,504 meals and 15,601 NFIs were distributed.

of meals distributed: **98,504**

of NFIs distributed: **15,601**

complementary baby food distributed: **687**

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 94 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 109 migrants and conducted 311 general information sessions.

The Syrian Arab Republic (44%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Morocco (16%), Afghanistan and Pakistan (8%), Türkiye (6%), Gambia, Palestine and Bangladesh (3% each), Iran, Iraq and Democratic Republic of Congo (1% each), Cameroon, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Guinea (less than 1% each).

of persons transported: **109**

of information sessions: **311**



IOM MOBILE TEAMS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE TO TWO FAMILIES, NFI AND BABY FOOD FOR AN ELEVEN MONTH OLD BABY IN ORAŠJE.
©IOM 2024

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Between 8 and 21 January 2024, the team reached 229 migrants of which 175 were being hosted in TRCs and 54 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 148 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 13 persons applied for voluntary return in the past two weeks. During the reporting period AVRR team registered 6 persons and preparation of their voluntary returns is in progress.

The first training session within the rollout of the "Return Counselling Toolkit" was held in Sarajevo on 17-18 January 2024, for IOM staff and field staff from partner organizations. Participants had the chance to learn about the methodology of counselling approaches to return and the fundamental principles underlying counselling. Throughout an interactive workshop, participants discussed and received professional guidance on the issues of identifying and addressing the vulnerabilities of migrants in the return process, as well as working with children and families. The two-day workshop allowed participants to engage in a comprehensive and thorough approach to counselling on return, exploring various phases of this process. The event was organized within the project 'Support for Evidence-Based Migration Management in the Western Balkans'.

Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns: **17, M: 14, F:3**

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2024: **0**

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



THE FIRST TRAINING SESSION WITHIN THE ROLLOUT OF THE "RETURN COUNSELLING TOOLKIT" WAS HELD IN SARAJEVO ON 17-18 JANUARY 2024 FOR IOM STAFF AND STAFF FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS.
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Omar, a long migration journey filled with dreams

The roots of Omar's migration journey go back to 1948, when his family migrated from the Palestinian Territories first to Lebanon, then Jordan and finally to the Syrian Arab Republic. In 2003, Omar returned with his cousins to the Palestinian Territories, where he finished the first grade of elementary school before going back to the Syrian Arab Republic. Omar is an excellent student.

He finished high school through home tutoring and studied sociology for one year, even though he was working since he was twelve so he could support his family.

On 25 October 2020, Omar left the Syrian Arab Republic with the plan and dream of finishing his undergraduate degree. Leaving his loved ones was a hard decision but he had no other choice.

Before reaching Bosnia and Herzegovina, Omar travelled and worked for four years, mainly in Türkiye and Greece. Today his hope is to find a home and finish his education where he feels safe.

'My dream is to learn the language of my destination country, finish my education and find a good job.', Omar

Omar is currently accommodated in a Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) in BiH. Since his arrival in the center he has been provided with shelter, food and non-food items (NFIs), access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, health, protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as access to information, specialized services and educational activities.



OMAR PLANS TO FINISH HIS EDUCATION AND FIND A GOOD JOB.
©IOM 2024

According to IOM's Flow Monitoring Surveys, four per cent of the interviewed migrants transiting through the Western Balkans state that better access to education as their main motivation to migrate. In addition, in the TRCs, education, trainings and recreational activities can greatly contribute to beneficiaries' well-being, self-perception and sense of belonging. In fact, participation to such activities may offer them stable routines while receiving assistance and provide opportunities for social interaction and self-expression. In BiH, in reception centers, IOM provides educational and recreational activities such as sport, literacy, numeracy and language courses or other ad-hoc classes as for instance information and technology and arts and crafts.



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