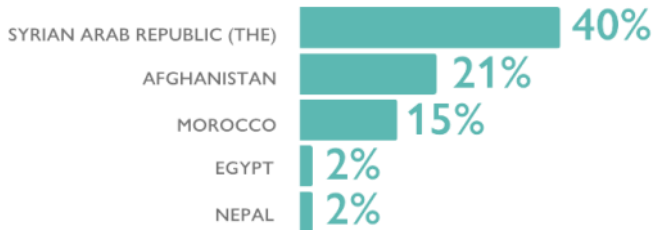


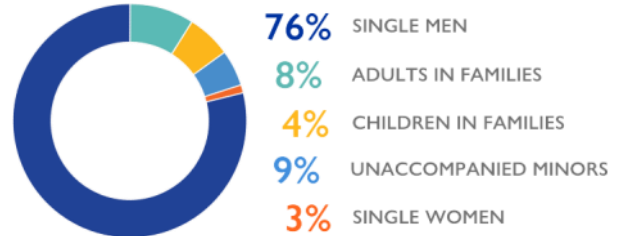
TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	253	580	11
LIPA	599	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	874	1,700	6
UŠIVAK	242	800	8
TOTAL:	1,968	4,592	

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	1,781	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	2,953	1,598	465										5016

SITUATION OVERVIEW

From 12 - 14 March, IOM organized a three-day training on Cultural Competencies, Mediation and the Vulnerability of Migrants for 20 representatives of the Service of Foreigner's Affairs (SFA). The sessions focus included migrants' profiles and vulnerabilities, the prevention of gender-based violence, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programming and the role of cultural mediators in facilitating dialogues with migrants. This training is part of a series of activities organized to build the capacity of SFA staff working directly with beneficiaries in temporary reception centres (TRCs), and integral to the ongoing transition to State-led migration response.

Many activities took place in TRCs to mark International Women's Day on 8 March. In TRC Ušivak, a Dance and Theatre workshop was offered to migrant women by the NGO SCENA. In TRC Lipa, representatives of the Technical Faculty Bihać, beneficiaries, and IOM staff prepared Boxes of Friendship filled with products made in the Creative Zone, and distributed boxes to members of the Cancer Support Associations in Bihać, Cazin, Velika Kladuša and Bosanski Petrovac.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WAS MARKED IN ALL RECEPTION CENTRES. ©IOM 2024

CONTACTS

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 4 and 17 March 2024, IOM recorded a total of 1,265 people arriving to four temporary reception centres, including newly registered persons and those previously registered and returning for assistance. This represents a decrease of 38.2 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (19 February – 3 March 2024). There were 2,069 new departures, which is similar to departures recorded in the previous reporting period (2,046).

In TRC Blažuj, a new power substation is now in function, following the completion of all operational and administrative steps. This marks a critical milestone for the TRC, which had been relying on generators and a single substation. Owing to this improvement, all migrants from the collective accommodation (approximately 400) were relocated to container accommodation during the reporting week, allowing for more privacy.

IOM organized a training for staff working in reception centres in Sarajevo Canton focusing on health-related services.

The first training topic was on “Standard operating procedures in common medical situations in cases when medical teams are not present in TRCs”, providing guidance to IOM teams in recognizing and responding to emergency and common medical situations.

The second session, “Communication with Emergency Department/Dispatch”, provided guidance on effective communication with Emergency Rooms (ER) and Dispatchers; how specific information should be shared on a case-by-case basis and how to follow instructions provided by ER. The aim of the trainings was to strengthen the capacity of the IOM teams to effectively address medical emergency cases during hours when primary health care medical teams are not present in the reception centres.

In TRC Borići, IOM organized a spring cleaning in anticipation of the upcoming holidays celebrated in different cultures and confessions (Nowruz, Easter, and Eid al-Fitr). IOM and migrant volunteers cleaned all accommodation rooms and communal areas including the exterior part of the centre, the main plateau, the courtyard and the community kitchen.



INTERACTIVE GROUP SESSION “WOMEN’S DIALOGUES” WAS ORGANIZED IN TRC UŠIVAK.
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PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 4 and 17 March 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 1,094 emergency screenings, through which 323 persons with protection needs were identified. IOM provided individual assistance, including interpretation and logistical support (such as orientation at the TRCs and the provision of documents) to 341 persons while 1,952 individuals were reached through information and awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM organized a community meeting “Women's Dialogues” to better identify the needs of women accommodated in the centre. During the first meeting, seven women from the Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia, and Palestinian Territories shared feedback on challenges faced by women, particularly during Ramadan, and suggested organizational improvements related to the provision of prayer space and food distribution during Iftar and Suhoor. IOM responded promptly, the prayer room was modified to accommodate a prayer area for women and established a separate queue for women during food distribution.

In TRC Borići, IOM in collaboration with Vaša prava, organized a joint information and legal session for ten migrants from Nepal and Mongolia. The participants gained insight regarding their legal rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the asylum-seeking process.

In TRC Blažuj IOM organized a meeting with partner organizations (World Vision, Save the Children, BiH Women’s Initiative, Jesuit Refugee Service, Vaša prava, NCM Ivan Pavao II) to re-establish a complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM). It was agreed that meetings will be organized twice a month, and the leading role will rotate among the organizations to ensure equitable involvement. Additionally, complaint forms were restocked in designated boxes at a visible spot in the centre, and a poster promoting the use of the mechanism among beneficiaries was created. Moving forward the CFM will involve the SFA and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB) staff in these meetings in the future.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 1,094

of individual assistance: 341



IOM ORGANIZES COMMUNITY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN ALL TRCs INCLUDING SPORT AND PLAY EVENTS. A FOOTBALL TRAINING 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.

In TRC Ušivak, Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) provided services for 170 beneficiaries including 124 mothers and 45 children (28 males and 17 females),

of laundry services: 2,289

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 52,781 meals were served including 18,104 additional meals for Suhoor and Iftar and 13,330 NFIs were distributed.

In all reception centres IOM adapted the menu to include two additional meals for beneficiaries who fast during Ramadan, for early morning meal Suhoor and evening meal Iftar.

of meals distributed: 52,781

of NFIs distributed: 13,330

ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

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 83 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 163 migrants and conducted 343 general information sessions.

The Syrian Arab Republic (32%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Afghanistan and Morocco (14% each), Türkiye (12%), Pakistan (6%), Mongolia (5%), Sierra Leone and Iraq (4% each), Nepal (3%), Somalia (2%), Egypt, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and Cameroon (1% each).

of persons transported: 163

of information sessions: 343

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. IOM's Return and Reintegration team regularly engages in various activities encompassing outreach, information dissemination, counselling, registration, and movement operations.

Between 4 and 17 March 2024, the team reached 162 migrants, of which 79 were being hosted in TRCs and 83 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 assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), but also guarantee the swift directing towards protection services. A total of 95 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available made during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival.

During the reporting period 11 persons returned to their countries of origin (Azerbaijan 1, Nepal 2, Indonesia 6 and Türkiye 2). During the reporting period AVRR team registered nine persons and preparation of their voluntary returns is in progress.

AVRR counsellors regularly participate in legal information sessions organized together with IOM Protection and Vaša prava teams for migrants accommodated in TRCs Blažuj, Ušivak, Lipa and Borići. At these sessions the AVRR team provides additional information to migrants about their rights, key details of AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to their country of origin.

Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns: 57, M: 54, F:3

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2024: 43, M: 42, F: 1

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,463 M: 1297, F: 166



SPRING CLEANING IN TRC BORIĆI.
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TRAINING FOR SFA STAFF ON CULTURAL COMPETENCIES, MEDIATION AND THE VULNERABILITY OF MIGRANTS WAS HELD IN BIHAĆ.
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Shishi's* Story

Shishi arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina nearly four months ago, fleeing from a life of hardship in Iran. In her homeland, the struggle for women's rights and equality was an ongoing battle, prompting her decision to leave in pursuit of a better life. Leaving her family behind, Shishi embarked on a journey through Türkiye before reaching Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"It is really hard for a woman to go through this road alone, because everything is dangerous. Some people, especially smugglers, want to use us, particularly when they see a woman alone." confided Shishi.

Shishi's journey reflects a personal evolution, shifting from a decade-long career as an accountant in Iran to newfound passion for law. Her personal story back in Iran and her journey led her to envision a future where she advocates for women's rights globally.

"Now that I am here, I realized that I would like to be a lawyer, protect women all over the world!"

Despite the hardships, driven by a deep sense of responsibility, Shishi remains deeply connected to her roots. Her ultimate goal is to return to Iran as an advocate for positive change.

Since she arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina Shishi has engaged in the activities of the No Nation Fashion initiative, using her story to break down cultural barriers and gain a sense of empowerment.

"It is meaningful for me because at least I can have a voice as a woman in another country, I can speak to someone who didn't know anything about my country and my situation!"



Shishi encourages women to embrace independence and confidence, empowering themselves in the face of adversity. She shares her belief that being strong and resilient is crucial for navigating the challenges encountered during migration.

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