

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION RESPONSE SITUATION REPORT 1-14 APRIL 2024

UNA-SANA CANTON								0	TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (T OCCUPANCY CAPACITY AVG. LENGTH STAY (DAYS)				
				The Sal			— BORIĆI		229	58	0	11	
		-577					LIPA		348	1,51	2	6	
SARAJEVO CANTON													
							— BLAŽUJ		797	1,70	0	6	
			990				<sup>-</sup> UŠIVA	K	193 800		C	8	
							TOTAL:	1	,567	4,59	2		
TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA													
			.5 110 110		41%					76%	SINGLE M	EN	
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (THE)				21%	<b>- 1</b> /0					8%		N FAMILIES	
AFGHANISTAN													-
MOROCCO			11					4%		CHILDREN IN FAMILIES			
EGYPT			3%	6						8%	UNACCO	MPANIED M	NORS
PAKISTAN			2%							4%	SINGLE W	OMEN	
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	882 670	2,001 773	1,540	112 1,271	512 1,937	1,722	2,194 2,236	2,618	1,889 1,591	1,087 1,547	1,064 704	529 525	16,150 15,740
2021	429	578	907	1,567	1,972	2,214	2,230	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	1,993	855		-							7,399

# SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 10 April, to mark the Eid al-Fitr, joyful celebrations were organized in all four temporary reception centers (TRCs) and included singing, dancing and delicious pastries. In TRCs Blažuj and Lipa, a joint Eid prayer was organized. In TRC Ušivak, children helped with the distribution of delicious meals prepared in the community kitchen, where migrant women and men cooked the most famous dishes from their homeland.

IOM continuously works to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. During the reporting period, IOM designed and disseminated in BiH reception centers communication materials in six different languages. The purpose of the information material is to inform migrants about what constitutes sexual exploitation and abuse, what forms of behavior are forbidden, and how to report it.



CELEBRATING EID-AL-FITR IN TRC BLAŽUJ. ©IOM 2024

## CONTACTS

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#### **BIH MIGRATION RESPONSE**

## **COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT**

Between 1 and 14 April 2024, IOM recorded a total of 2,372 people arriving at four temporary reception centres, including newly registered persons and those previously registered and returning for assistance. This represents a slightly higher value compared to the previous reporting period (2,036) 18 - 31 March 2024. There were 2,581 new departures, which is slightly higher compared to departures recorded in the previous reporting period (2,380).

At TRC Lipa, the testing phase of the SMART CAMP application, which is a data collection tool for tracking service provision and occupancy in reception centres, began in April. Consequently, in coordination with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), SMART ID cards have been issued to approximately 90 per cent of the centre's population, enabling testing of three SMART CAMP modules: Food, Non-Food Items (NFI), and Gate. Using the SMART CAMP in TRC Lipa will ensure faster service provision and simplify monitoring and reporting.

At TRC Blažuj, IOM organized an Interagency Coordination Meeting to enable information sharing among partner organizations. The organizations' representatives gave updates on their regular activities, such as current projects, initiatives, and plans for the next period. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the plans for Eid celebration and look for ways to cooperate, ensuring complete coverage and preventing overlap of efforts for the upcoming celebrations.

IOM staff in TRC Blažuj and TRC Ušivak received and were trained on the document "Medical Action Procedures for IOM Staff When Medical Teams Are Not Present in Center". The document has the information needed to assess how serious medical problems are for migrants, choose where to refer a beneficiary based on the assessed health risk, and how to properly describe symptoms to emergency responders. The document contains guidelines for handling situations like high temperatures, stomach pain, back pain, skin changes, psychological changes, headaches, etc.

#### PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 1 and 14 April 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 892 emergency screenings, through which 210 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 146 persons while 1,004 individuals were reached through information and awareness raising sessions.

At TRC Lipa, IOM set up two info boards, recognizing the need for upscaling regular and updated information in the centre. The boards were placed in the dining hall and at the INFO point, in coordination with the SFA. They will be used to share information about all the services in the centre and other important information, such as water and hygiene issues, schedules of different activities, etc.

At TRC Ušivak, the No Nation Fashion (NNF) studio provided a diverse array of creative activities for beneficiaries. This included a thermofusion workshop where migrants learned to craft bags from nylon using heat and thermofusion techniques. Additionally, there were decoupage and jewelry-making workshops in collaboration with partner organization World Vision, specifically for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

At TRC Blažuj, between 8 and 14 April, IOM organized 16 workshops including a wide range of activities, engaging 151 migrants from Afghanistan, Morocco, Algeria, Somalia, Greece, Turkmenistan, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, among others. The activities included sewing, clothes resizing, knitting, artwork and dancing, aimed to foster a sense of community and alleviate stress among the residents. Furthermore, eight upcycling workshops were conducted with 10 migrants, during which they crafted the upcycled bag creatively made from PVC bags.

#### # of emergency screenings in TRCs: 892

# of individual assistance: 146



UNA SANA CANTON PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE STARTED WITH DELIVERY OF ENTRY MEDICAL SCREENINGS FROM I APRIL IN TRC BORIĆI AND TRC LIPA. ©IOM 2024



SOAPS MADE IN THE CREATIVE ZONE OF TRC LIPA BY BENEFICIARIES. ©IOM 2024

#### **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.

At TRC Blažuj, IOM maintenance staff worked on mowing the grass in the centre as a part of the spring-cleaning activities. They also cleaned the areas in front of the Masjid (prayer area), kitchen and warehouse, preparing for the Eid celebration. In addition, the maintenance staff reinstalled a canopy in front of the Social Corner and the dining hall which serves as a rain and sun shield.

IOM carried out a survey at TRC Ušivak to measure how satisfied women beneficiaries are with the hygiene items they receive in the usual distributions of non-food items (NFIs). The survey results, which came from interviews with 21 women, will help to make changes in how often the NFIs are refilled.

In TRC Ušivak, Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) provided services for 108 beneficiaries including 76 mothers and single women and 32 children (20 males and 12 females), while 55 bags of clothes were washed and dried and/or ironed. Regular cleaning of MBWU premises was conducted daily and the area around the unit as well.

# of laundry services: 1,933

#### FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM conducted its regular food and Non-Food Items (NFI) distribution activities with partner organizations the Red Cross and Pomozi.ba. During the reporting period, a total of 36,209 meals were served including meals for Suhoor and Iftar and 9,460 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. Recognizing the diverse needs of individuals, special attention was given to those who required a specialized diet due to health issues.

#### # of meals distributed: 36,209

# of NFIs distributed: 9,460



IOM'S MOBILE TEAMS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AND NFI TO MIGRANTS IN SARAJEVO CANTON. ©IOM 2024

#### 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 60 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 209 migrants and conducted 437 general information sessions.

The Syrian Arab Republic (56%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Somalia (9%), Egypt and Pakistan (6% each), Morocco (5%), Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal (3% each), Algeria, Mongolia and the Republic of Türkiye (2% each), Iran and Iraq (1% each), China and DR Congo (less than 1% each).

# of persons transported: 209

# of information sessions: 437

## **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 1 and 14 April 2024, the team reached 200 migrants, of which 120 were being hosted in TRCs and 80 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 116 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance made available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival.

During the reporting period, three persons returned to their countries of origin (Pakistan 2, Türkiye 1). During the reporting period the AVRR team registered nine persons and the 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 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. In cooperation with World Vision, the AVRR team in TRC Ušivak is also organizing information sessions for UASC.

# Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns: 80 M: 76, F:4

- # Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2024: 55 M: 54, F: 1
- # Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,475 M: 1,309 F: 166

## Love without borders

## A story shared by Dženita Čorbo Agović, IOM Migrant Protection Assistant

The simple scene of a couple sitting in each other's arms on a bench quietly watching their daughter play, powerfully portrayed the resilience of people on the move. As observers, we couldn't resist capturing this touching moment with a photo. Upon sharing the photograph with them, the couple's eyes sparkled with reminiscence and gratitude, prompting them to share their remarkable journey.

"We've been married for five years," said Selim\*, his voice carrying a mix of pride and nostalgia. "We met and married in Türkiye. That chance encounter gave us hope for a new beginning."

Their joy expanded with the arrival of their daughter, a testament to their enduring commitment despite the turmoil of displacement. Their journey was marked by hardship and uncertainty, stretching from Syria through Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, and finally settling in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Serbia was our longest stop, six years. Our daughter learned the local language there."

They expressed their gratitude for the services available in the Ušivak reception center, finding solace in routine walks and new experiences to counteract their homesickness. *"We support each other,"* they stressed, sharing a quiet understanding forged through shared trials and tribulations.

Their story reminds us that amidst displacement and uncertainty, love remains a constant companion - a force that transcends boundaries and challenges, providing strength and comfort along the way.

\*Name was changed to protect privacy















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.