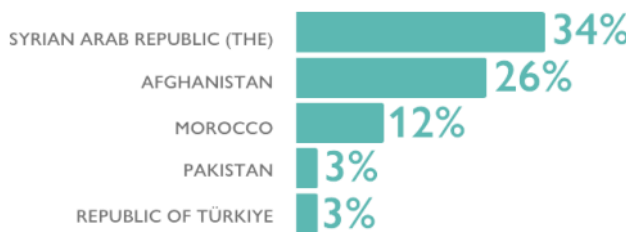


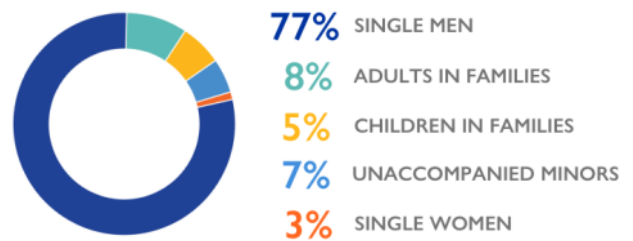
### TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

	OCCUPANCY	CAPACITY	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)
BORIĆI	148	580	11
LIPA	282	1,512	6
BLAŽUJ	722	1,700	6
UŠIVAK	225	800	8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>4,592</b>	

### 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	1,993	2,032	1,564								10,140

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 16 May, the service of entry medical screenings in reception centres Blažuj and Ušivak was officially transferred from Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to the Primary Health Centres (PHC) of Sarajevo Canton. In each TRC the entry medical screenings will be performed five days a week for all beneficiaries. In the first week, DRC has been providing shadow training to the PHC teams.

IOM has been actively engaged in facilitating this transition, ensuring adequate premises and protective equipment for the medical personnel of the PHC. Beneficiaries in need of medical assistance continue to be referred to the centres infirmaries.

IOM organized two training sessions on "Application of a rights-based approach to counselling and assistance on return" for the employees of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), in Sarajevo on 15 and 16 May and in Bihac on 22 and 23 May. The training is a part of the project "Individual measure to strengthen the response capacity to manage migration flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina", funded by the European Union. The participants learned about the basic principles of the return counselling

process. They also discussed how to address the needs and identify migrants in a vulnerable situation, with a special focus on providing return counselling to families and unaccompanied and separated children.



PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES PERFORM ENTRY MEDICAL SCREENINGS IN TRC UŠIVAK AND TRC BLAŽUJ. ©IOM 2024

### CONTACTS

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## COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 13 and 26 May 2024, IOM recorded a total of 1,783 people arriving at four temporary reception centres, including newly registered persons and those previously registered and returning for assistance. This represents a 4.4 per cent decrease compared to the previous reporting period (1,865) 29 April – 12 May 2024. There were 1,964 new departures, which is a 3.7 per cent increase compared to departures recorded in the previous reporting period (1,894).

In TRC Ušivak, IOM organized an informative health session dedicated to oral health and hygiene in coordination with DRC and World Vision (WVI) on May 23. Dentists from the Dental Clinic Center, working alongside DRC, conducted an hour-long session for two adults and 11 children, with the support of a WVI cultural mediator. They showed how healthy and unhealthy teeth differ, how to brush teeth properly and frequently, and provided guidance on what to do if a tooth is sick or broken. Some participants also had their teeth checked by the dentists.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM actively engaged beneficiaries in events to mark International Day of Biological Diversity, that aimed to raise awareness and encourage environmental protection. An ecology expert led a workshop where he gave a presentation on the importance of preserving our planet's rich biodiversity. Participants learned about local flora and fauna as well as global conservation efforts, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation for biodiversity. Following the workshop, a community clean-up activity around the centre's area was organized involving beneficiaries and local community members and migrants. This joint effort improved the centre's environment, encouraged a sense of self-responsibility, and fostered community ties.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM worked with Caritas and other partners, such as UNFPA, UNICEF, World Vision, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHVI), and beneficiaries, to improve and beautify the garden near the children's services in the centre. They cleared the weeds, prepared new soil, and planted flowers, which they adorned with vases made from old mats, white stones, and solar lamps. Through their joint efforts, participants made the center more pleasant.

# of vulnerability screenings in TRCs: 744

# of persons with protection needs 235

## PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 13 and 26 May 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 744 emergency screenings, through which 235 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 236 persons while 1,017 individuals were reached through information and awareness raising sessions.

In TRC Lipa, psychology first aid (PFA) was provided to thirty-nine migrants who showed signs of distress. Individual assistance was provided to thirty migrants regarding additional NFI, providing specific information regarding certain services they need, assisting persons with medical conditions or disabilities in access to specific services in the centre, as well as assisting in collecting relevant information about specific cases in coordination with the SFA. Additionally, eight unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) participated in a workshop where they learned how to dye fabric pieces using Shimbori techniques. These pieces were later joined and stitched into a big scarf. The same workshop was organized for families, with 11 participants. Beneficiaries from Iraq and Syria also did decoupage on boxes, knitted small bags, and made bracelets. These activities were accompanied by music from Sierra Leone, creating a lively and joyful working atmosphere.

In TRC Blažuj, Football Club Respekt, IOM's partner for social cohesion activities, held a football tournament for the beneficiaries. Almost 50 people joined the event, which showed their enthusiasm for the training sessions and especially for tournaments outside the centre. This activity attracted more participants than the previous monthly tournament, which showed an increasing interest in it. The champions of the competition came from Morocco and gave the trophy to IOM as a sign of gratitude for the assistance they received from IOM.

In TRC Borići, IOM hosted a meeting with partner organizations including UNFPA, UNICEF, WVI and DRC to coordinate protection activities to tackle the problem of substance abuse and to improve prevention measures. The participants collaborated on the plan of action that aim to inform the beneficiaries about the health risks and outcomes of substance abuse.



INFORMATIVE HEALTH SESSION ON ORAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE WAS ORGANIZED FOR BENEFICIARIES IN TRC UŠIVAK. ©IOM 2024



TEAM OF BENEFICIARIES FROM MAROCCO WON THE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT ORGANIZED IN TRC BLAŽUJ BY FC RESPEKT. ©IOM 2024

## 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 this reporting period, IOM maintenance in TRC Blažuj focused on the visual enhancement of the playground. They removed weeds and marked the lines of the field for football games. They also worked on improving the infrastructure by putting up 100W LED floodlights on poles around the playground. This enhancement makes sure that the field can be used at night, which is especially appealing to beneficiaries as the weather gets warmer.

The beneficiaries in TRC Ušivak have increased their hygiene awareness, due to their voluntary efforts to maintain their living units and surroundings tidy. These joint actions help to establish durable hygiene norms in the centre. The positive impacts can be observed in the general neatness of the centre, especially for newcomers, who adopt and follow these good habits.

**# of laundry services: 1,867**

## 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 32,466 meals were served and 8,492 NFIs were distributed.

Recognizing the diverse needs of individuals, special attention was given to those who required a specialized diet due to health issues. During the reporting period, 28 people received a special diet meals in line with medical recommendations.

**# of meals distributed: 32,466**

**# of NFIs distributed: 8,492**

## 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 49 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 158 migrants and conducted 466 general information sessions.

Morocco (32 %) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by the Syria (30%), Afghanistan (12%), Türkiye (9%), Pakistan (5%), Algeria (3%), Iraq, Palestinian Territories, Republic of Sudan (2% each), China, Nepal, Tunisia (1 % each).

**# of persons transported: 158**

**# of information sessions: 466**

## 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 13 and 26 May 2024, the team reached 107 migrants, of which 54 were being hosted in TRCs and 53 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 61 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival.

During the reporting period, four persons returned to their countries of origin (Greece 1, Azerbaijan 1, Bangladesh 1 and Tunisia 1). During the reporting period the AVRR team registered eight 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 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. In cooperation with World Vision, the AVRR team in TRC Ušivak is also organizing information sessions for UASC.

**# Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns: 96 M: 91, F:5**

**# Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2024: 78 M: 74, F: 4**

**# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,498 M: 1,329 F: 169**



THE TRAINING "APPLICATION OF A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO COUNSELLING AND ASSISTANCE ON RETURN" WAS ORGANIZED BY IOM FOR THE SFA STAFF IN SARAJEVO AND BIHAĆ. ©IOM 2024

## “Oussama's\* Story”

Oussama\*, a native of Algeria, embarked on a migration journey four months ago.

“What motivated me to take this path is my unfulfilled dreams and the growing corruption in my country. Also, as a human being, I wanted to travel, experience different cultures, meet new people, and establish relationships with foreigners.” begins Oussama.

Oussama acknowledges the many risks and challenges faced by people on the move. He personally encountered hunger, exposure to harsh weather, wild animal threats, racism, and people dying as a result of hazards on the route. After numerous failed attempts to cross the border, he decided he wanted to return to his home country and sought assistance from the IOM Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme team helped him return home.



OUSSAMA\* WAS SUPPORTED BY IOM AVRR TEAM TO RETURN HOME TO ALGERIA.  
©IOM 2024

“I realized that nothing is worth risking my life and health (both mentally and physically).”

Despite the hardships of his journey, Oussama had also made friends with others who shared a similar fate:

“This journey greatly impacted me. I have become more patient, resilient, and cautious. I learned survival skills in the forest and this has helped other migrants by translating for them when dealing with authorities. I also gained knowledge about Slavic countries and their history. I have met people from different countries and each one had a unique story that I still remember” recalls Oussama.

As a word of advice, Oussama strongly discourages irregular migration and suggests exploring regular alternatives. He also warns against believing posts on social media that support such irregular journeys as they often portray a false image.

“I do not recommend taking this dangerous and irregular route. Instead, I urge you to explore other options through legal means. It is a terrible feeling to be caught doing something against the law, and the money spent on such a journey could be used to start a business in your own country. I believe that obtaining legal permission to travel abroad is the best option. And one more thing, do not trust everything you see on social media, especially videos that promote irregular migration. The reality is completely different, and I know that firsthand” emphasizes Oussama.

Back home, he intends to use the funds provided by the programme to assist his sisters and mother, while actively searching for a job.

\*Name was changed to protect privacy



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