On 27 May, following seven months of training, 120 new border police cadets including 22 junior inspectors joined the Border Police. The training was part of the project “Individual measure to strengthen the response capacity to manage migration flows in BiH” financed by the European Union. In the upcoming period, IOM will continue supporting the Border police and strengthen the capacities of the Agency for training and professional development, to facilitate the training of other order police cadets.

On 4 June, in Banja Luka, IOM organized a roundtable to showcase the achievements of the project “Addressing mixed migration flows in the Western Balkans”, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway with focus on assistance in Republika Srpska (RS). Through this project IOM provides protection-sensitive assistance to migrants in transit, support rehabilitation of social infrastructures and social cohesion activities in RS, ensures access to assisted voluntary return and reintegration, and collects data on mixed migration flows in BiH and in the region.

98 NEW CADETS AND 22 JUNIOR INSPECTORS JOINED THE BORDER POLICE RANKS. ©IOM 2024
COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 27 May and 9 June 2024, IOM recorded a total of 1,733 people arriving at four reception centres, including newly registered persons and those previously registered and returning for assistance, very similar to the previous reporting period (1,783). There were 1,702 new departures, which is a 13.3% per cent decrease compared to departures recorded in the previous reporting period (1,964).

In TRC Blažuj, IOM organized refresher training for the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) team leaders from TRC Lipa on the use of the Smart Camp Application. Smart Camp Application is a software that enables automated daily tracking of services in the reception centres and contains functions for analysis and reporting. The Błažuj centre was chosen as the venue for the training because it accommodates single male adults similar to Lipa centre and has gained valuable experience and knowledge in using the software. The training consisted of an introductory presentation of all the modules within the Application, its purpose, and how to apply it. After the presentation was completed, the practical part followed, where the participants went through all the modules closely related to the services offered at TRC Lipa: Registration, Food, Non-food Items (NFIs), WASH, Laundry, Maintenance, and the module related to reporting.

In TRC Ušivak, in cooperation with World Vision IOM provided school transportation for 26 children who attend classes in two local primary schools in Ilidža and Pazarić and vocational training in High School Hadžići. Also, in Ušivak, IOM organized a cleaning action, in coordination with World Vision and other partners including Caritas and JRS, in the UASC (Unaccompanied and Separated Children) zone, involving also unaccompanied children to enhance cleanliness and hygiene of the accommodation units. Throughout the cleaning process, guidance and support was provided by IOM and World Vision, ensuring the children understand the importance of their work. This initiative aimed to ensure a healthier living environment for the children, promoting not only cleanliness but also instilling a sense of responsibility and teamwork among the young residents.

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 27 May and 9 June 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 777 emergency screenings, through which 250 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 248 persons while 933 individuals were reached through information and awareness raising sessions.

In all reception centres, IOM placed posters on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse (PSEA) with basic information and reporting references in high-frequent areas inside the centres. This ensured that all residents are informed about the measures in place to protect their rights and how to report the incidents. The posters provide visual information on what constitutes sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as detailed instructions on how to report such incidents confidentially. They also include contact information for support services and emphasize the zero-tolerance policy towards such behavior.

In TRC Borici, a local organization Ujedinjene Žene, IOM’s partner on the project “Individual Measures to Strengthen Capacity for Managing Migration Flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” organized knitting workshops for the beneficiaries. These workshops teach new skills and foster connections among the participants. Also in Borici, IOM held an info-legal information session for 11 migrants from Mali, Cameroon, and Guinea, with the help of Vaša prava, and a series of creative workshops. These workshops involved sport activities and a volleyball tournament.

In TRC Błažuj, IOM organized a canvas painting workshop. Many migrants showed interest and joined the event, which took place in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere. Participants had the opportunity to learn various painting and drawing techniques on canvas.

# of arrivals to TRCs: 1,733
# of departures from TRCs: 1,702
# of vulnerability screenings in TRCs: 777
# of persons with protection needs: 250
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 organized a cleaning action, in coordination with World Vision and other partners including Caritas and Jesuit Refugee Service, in the Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) zone, involving also volunteer beneficiaries, to enhance cleanliness and hygiene of the accommodation units. This initiative aimed to ensure a healthier living environment for the children, promoting not only cleanliness but also instilling a sense of responsibility and teamwork among the young residents.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM improved the recreative zone including the chess area, which is one of the favourite activities for beneficiaries residing at the centre.

# of laundry services: 1,590

FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM conducted its regular food and Non-Food Items distribution activities with partner organizations, such as the Red Cross and Pomozi.ba. During the reporting period, a total of 30,690 meals were served and 7,540 NFIs were distributed. Recognizing the diverse needs of individuals, special attention was given to those who required a specialized diet due to health issues.

On 30 May, a local association Zemlja djece from Tuzla visited TRC Ušivak and donated NFIs (tracksuit, T-shirt, shampoo, socks and underwear) and monetary vouchers. UASC, adult males and females received the monetary vouchers to use in a local supermarket. Children in families got hygienic packages (children soap and shampoo, face and body cream, baby powder, wet wipes). IOM carried out distribution in cooperation with World Vision staff. In total 153 vouchers and 160 NFI packages were distributed.

# of meals distributed: 30,690
# of NFIs distributed: 7,540

ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

IOM has mobile teams that are present at locations outside of TRCs to increase access to information and services with the aim of providing alternatives for migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings where they face increased protection risks. 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 53 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 146 migrants and conducted 403 general information sessions.

Syrian Arab Republic (26 %) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by Afghanistan (24%), Morocco (22%), Algeria (6%), Egypt (5%), Mongolia, Pakistan (4% each), India (2%), Iran, Iraq, Senegal (1% each), Cameroon, Georgia, Guinea, Nepal, Tunisia, Türkiye (less than 1% each).

# of persons transported: 146
# of information sessions: 403

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 27 May and 9 June 2024, the team reached 228 migrants, of which 94 were being hosted in TRCs and 134 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 75 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, five persons returned to their countries of origin (Pakistan 2, Mongolia 1, China 1, Türkiye 1). During the reporting period the AVRR team registered three 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: 100 M: 93, F: 7
# Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2024: 83 M: 77, F: 6
# Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,503 M: 1,332 F: 171

AVRR INFO SESSION IN TRC LIPA. ©IOM 2024
“Finding Love and Hope Amidst the Challenges of Migration: The Journey of Two Musicians from Iran

Nine years ago, Tezeshki and Raz left Iran in search of a better future. Both from the south of Iran, they met in Türkiye while on their migration journey.

“We fell in love when we met in Türkiye and have been together since”, Raz fondly recalls. Tezeshki admits that he fell for her even before discovering her talent for music and her captivating voice.

Music and poetry are their passion, and one of the driving forces behind their decision to leave their homeland. Raz, a singer with a love for rock and jazz music, felt limited in her society and yearned for freedom. Tezeshki, a poet and skilled arranger, knew that the music he created was not accepted or popular in Iran, so he made the decision to compose on his own terms elsewhere.

On their journey, they faced numerous challenges, but they believe it was destiny that brought them together, and that is enough for their future.

“Wherever life takes us, our goal is to make music,” Raz explains. “We take pride in our cultural heritage and our plan is to always sing in Farsi, no matter where destiny may lead us.” She acknowledges that the English-speaking world may offer more opportunities, but their music will always represent their language and express their journey and hope. “Millions of people speak Farsi, and I think and write in Farsi, and that is reflected in my music, which speaks of the pain and hope we experience on our journey through life and migration,” adds Tezeshki.

In the temporary reception center in Ušivak, Raz is learning to sew at a workshop in the No Nation Fashion corner, while Tezeshki spends his time crafting melodies, helping in the community, and learning English. They say that every day brings a new lesson, quoting their fellow countryman, the poet Saadi: “A traveller without observation is like a bird without wings.” At the suggestion of IOM staff, they are preparing a small poetry performance for everyone at the reception center.