



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	85												85

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Another round of vaccination was completed during the reporting period. The vaccination program jointly organized by IOM, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the Ministry of Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) started in August 2021. Since then, 1,078 doses have been administered to migrants accommodated in Temporary Reception Centers (TRCs). In total, 788 migrants have received their first dose, 286 received their second dose, and 4 migrants received their third dose.

On the occasion of the Orthodox Christmas celebrated on 7 January, volunteers from Slovakia organized a clown show for the children accommodated in TRC Ušivak, in cooperation with IOM, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), Caritas BiH and other partners. In addition to the show, the volunteers also prepared gifts for the children, as well as refreshments.



COVID-19 VACCINATION OF MIGRANTS IN BIH TRCS © IOM 2022

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

In TRC Miral, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) staff held regular meetings with partner organizations, to discuss the planning and coordination of activities. The Camp Manager also supported the new round of vaccination organized by DRC, notably by carrying disinfection of the space used. In the reporting period, a new CCCM deputy was appointed and together with the Camp Manager, he held a meeting with staff members to discuss CCCM.

Moreover, a meeting with SFA inspector and Save the Children (SCI) representative was to discuss improvements to the existing referral mechanism and accommodation of unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs). In TRC Lipa, on 8 January, representatives of the City of Bihać, along with Austrian councillors and members of the SOS Balkan route organization, visited the centre and exchanged ideas on assistance in TRCs and possible areas of cooperation.

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY



CLOWN SHOW FOR CHILDREN ORGANIZED IN TRC USIVAK © IOM 2022

During the reporting period, the IOM Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team referred 87 individual cases to partner organizations, and provided 335 protection-related individual services, including information on accommodation, medical assistance, transport assistance, translation, tailored non-food items (NFIs), assistance to persons with disabilities, vulnerability screening of newcomers and returnees, and coordination of psychosocial and recreational activities.

In TRC Miral, a complaint and feedback meeting was held on 5 January, with focus on the use of common space for sport activities, during which migrants and IOM elaborated some rules to maintain the safety of all. In TRC Blažuj, the weekly centre council meeting was held on 5 January with participation of 14 migrants. Issues discussed included heating in hangars and request for an indoor gym. In TRC Lipa, an initial complaint and feedback meeting was held with participation of all partner agencies and one migrant. By the migrant's request, the new hair salon operated by the Jesuits Refuge Service (JRS) opened its doors officially, which will allow migrants to access services, but also volunteer and hone new skills.

of persons referred to partner organizations by IOM: 87

of protection/MHPSS services provided by IOM: 335

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 (DDD) measures, and regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

During the reporting period, the IOM maintenance team in TRC Blažuj reorganized accommodation on the plateaus in preparation for new arrivals, repairing beds and locks, and replacing old mattresses and blankets. The outdoor kitchen was also thoroughly cleaned. In TRC Lipa, snowfall made access to the Centre challenging. To resume normal activities, snow clearing services were contracted and will continue to assist based on needs. In TRC Ušivak, 61 women and children used the Mother and Baby WASH Unit services, including 34 mothers and 27 children. Upon finalization of the work on the red hangar, the external contractor handed over the keys to IOM, and the work to connect the building to the electricity network was completed.

of persons sheltered: 2,153

of persons assisted by the IOM MBU: 61

of persons assisted with laundry services: 812

FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM carried its normal food and NFIs distribution activities, with support of partners. In TRC Blažuj, migrants accommodated in the units located on the plateau received new mattresses, and mass distribution of clothes was organized, for the distribution of 12,000 clothing items, including underwear, undershirt and socks. As usual, the standard welcome and scabies package was distributed to all newly registered beneficiaries and medical cases. In TRC Lipa, IOM also supported the distribution of 400 items including scarves, hats and thermo pants donated by the Red Cross of Bihać, which benefitted a total of 213 persons currently sheltered.

of meals distributed: 26,615

of NFIs distributed: 4,979

of persons supported with NFI: 508



FOOD AND NFI DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION © IOM 2022

UGWU'S* STORY

Ugwu* is a Nigerian man in his 30s, currently sheltered in a TRC in BiH. His story was collected by an IOM staff during the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) conducted at the end of 2021. Ugwu started his migration journey in December 2016, travelling through well-known transit countries in West Africa, including Libya, where he was held against his will and endured sexual and other forms of abuse. As travel by boat through the Mediterranean Sea was too expensive, Ugwu continued his journey travelling by foot, joining a group of migrants headed to Iran. He was detained in Iran for approximately three months. Upon his release, he crossed into Turkey, where he stayed for over two years, finding odd jobs in order to save enough money to resume his travels. Ugwu remembers the date of 25 June 2019 as the day his mother passed, and also as the day he managed to cross into Greece. There, he applied for asylum in hope to be able to work, but after four months without obtaining documents, he decided to move again.

Ugwu's experience in the Western Balkans is also riddled with fear, pain and uncertainties – mostly as a result of his experience dealing with the smugglers who facilitated his movement onward. Ugwu has been in BiH for only a few weeks, and he intends to attempt "the game" as soon as possible. Up until now, he estimates that his journey costs between USD 5,000 and USD 10,000. Because he could not rely on personal or family savings, the funds used were mostly contracted through debts and loans. Similar to Ugwu, migrants transiting through BiH and the Western Balkans are subject to extreme risks along the route, and become vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. In 2020, Europol noted a growth of migrant smuggling activities in the Western Balkans, with criminal networks employing increasingly exploitative measures to defeat controls. ¹

Through the Displacement Tracking Matrix FMS, IOM monitors changes in mixed migratory flows and documents the experiences of migrants on the move along the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes. The surveys provide a glimpse into the migrant and refugee profiles, transit routes, intentions, and factors of risks and vulnerabilities to migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The information collected helps support an evidence-based response.

*Not his real name.

¹ https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/emsc_4th_annual_activity_report_-_2020.pdf

ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

IOM's outreach team continues to be present in outside locations, to increase information on and access to services, with the aim to reduce the number of migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings. During the reporting period, the IOM Outreach Mobile Team provided 335 services to migrants identified outside of reception facilities, including 29 transportation services to 79 migrants and 96 food items. A total of 73 migrants accepted accommodation and were transported to reception facilities, out of which 51 to Lipa, 17 to Borići, and 5 to Miral.

During the joint activity "communication with communities", the IOM and UNHCR teams profiled 11 migrants in outreach locations in the Velika Kladuša area, out of whom nine were from Afghanistan, one from India and one from Iraq. Nine migrants were previously registered with SFA and all declined offer for accommodation in one of the reception facilities, asylum in BiH, or information on return and reintegration.

of persons transported to TRCs: 73

of individual services provided to migrants out of TRCs: 335



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO MIGRANTS OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION © IOM 2022

RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Between 3 and 9 January, the IOM return and reintegration team reached a total of 151 migrants, including 34 in TRCs and 117 in other locations. A total of 49 in-depth counselling sessions were held. IOM and UNHCR jointly disseminate information on return and asylum in all TRCs as well as in outreach locations. No return was reported in the current week.

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1.196

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2022: 6

SAFETY AND SECURITY

In TRC Blažuj, the National and Area Coordinator visited the centre to monitor the security situation and conduct audit of the security agency. IOM Security Assistant also held briefings on the role of the Office for Staff Security, SFA and security guards for CCCM staff and team leaders in TRCs in the Sarajevo Canton.

MAIN GAPS

New support to the migration response in BiH is needed. The top priority remains funds for food and NFI for migrants living in TRCs and those sleeping outside of TRCs. Funds are also needed for critical repairs and running costs of TRCs. IOM and its partners are exploring ways to complement funding to ensure preparedness and response to emergencies.

Capacity-building remains a priority to progress towards the overarching goal of ensuring state ownership of the emergency response.

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