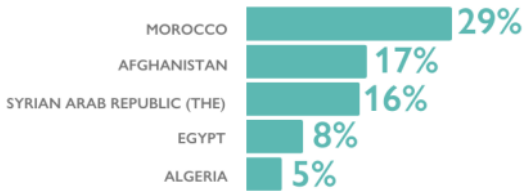


TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES (TRCs)

| | OCCUPANCY | CAPACITY | AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) |
|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| BORIĆI | 45 | 580 | 10 |
| LIPA | 113 | 1,512 | 13 |
| BLAŽUJ | 354 | 1,700 | 10 |
| UŠIVAK | 101 | 800 | 8 |
| TOTAL: | 613 | 4,592 | |

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES IN TRCs



SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA IN TRCs



- 78%** SINGLE MEN
- 7%** ADULTS IN FAMILIES
- 6%** CHILDREN IN FAMILIES
- 8%** UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
- 1%** SINGLE WOMEN

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 | 1,953 | 1,805 | 3,736 | 2,665 | 2,812 | 1,803 | 1,173 | 409 | 24,932 |

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Heavy snowfall in Bosnia and Herzegovina last week left approximately 100 migrants stranded in TRC Lipa due to blocked roads and no access to essential services. In response, IOM, in collaboration with Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Una Sana Red Cross, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, and local police, temporarily evacuated the migrants to TRC Borići. They were warmly welcomed and provided with the necessary support.

IOM celebrated International Migrants Day on 18 December in all temporary reception centres (TRCs). In TRC Borići, local pupils and teachers joined children at the centre for activities promoting understanding and friendship. Children exchanged symbolic gifts, highlighting solidarity. In TRC Ušivak, local association Igman from Hadžići joined the celebration with a performance of traditional dances and songs. Beneficiaries rewarded the nice gesture of the community with gifts for all who were present, which they made during creative workshops in the centre.



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY IN RECEPTION CENTRES.

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COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT

Between 9 and 22 December 2024, IOM recorded a total of 630 people arriving at four temporary reception centres, including newly registered people and those previously registered and returning for assistance, which is a 26.7 per cent decrease compared to the previous reporting period 25 November – 8 December 2024 (860). There were 773 new departures, which is a 23.2 per cent decrease compared to departures recorded in the previous reporting period (1,007).

During the reporting period, the Una Sana Canton (USC) Public Health Institute carried out 107 entry medical screenings in TRC Borići and TRC Lipa, and the Sarajevo Canton (SC) Public Health Institute provided 248 screenings in TRC Blažuj and TRC Ušivak. As part of the healthcare activities, general practitioners and pediatricians from USC and SC health care centres regularly provided services in four centres. IOM provided transport to healthcare facilities based on doctors' referrals, ensuring timely medical care.

In TRC Borići and TRC Lipa, IOM organized information sessions for migrants on the food menu and meal preparation in coordination with the Una Sana Red Cross, Bihać Municipality Red Cross, and an external associate representing the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, as part of ongoing efforts to ensure a smooth transition and enhancement of food sector management. The sessions offered information about the official menu and assisted Red Cross teams by sharing effective practices in meal planning and preparation. Migrants actively participated in discussions.

Furthermore, IOM organized a coordination meeting with representatives of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and Una Sana Canton Red Cross teams. During the meeting, the teams had the opportunity to reflect on their achievements and discuss the next steps in implementing the transition process.

Efforts continued to transfer food sector duties to Sarajevo Canton Red Cross staff in TRC Blažuj. IOM organized training for the Red Cross team to build their skills in managing operations, handling cross-checking delivery notes, maintaining paperwork, and using the Smart Camp Application for monitoring and reporting. This ensured a smooth transition while maintaining service quality.



OPERATIONAL MEETING BETWEEN IOM AND RED CROSS.
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PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Between 9 and 22 December 2024, IOM facilitated a total of 281 emergency protection screenings and identified 125 persons with protection needs. IOM provided individual assistance, including interpretation and logistical support (such as orientation at the TRCs and the provision of documents) to 174 persons while 704 beneficiaries were reached through information and awareness raising sessions.

IOM organizes various activities and sessions with beneficiaries to promote community involvement and increase awareness in all reception centres on a variety of topics. During the reporting period, a total of 21 community events were organized across four reception centres (8 creative and art sessions, 4 legal info sessions, 4 sessions with a focus on mental health, 2 on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, 2 for celebration) for a total of 352 participants (332M, 20 W).

In TRC Blažuj, IOM, in coordination with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Jesuit Refugee Service, and Caritas, organized a celebration to mark the centre's 5th anniversary. The event was attended by approximately 50 beneficiaries from various countries such as Afghanistan, Algeria, Morocco, and Nigeria and was filled with music and dancing, fostering a lively atmosphere of cultural exchange and community engagement.

In TRC Borići five unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) attended vocational training with the support of the World Vision team. IOM provided transportation assistance for the children, ensuring their safe participation in the program.

In TRC IOM Lipa, IOM and the Council of Students from the Faculty of Technical Sciences at the University of Bihać launched IT workshops for migrants residing in the centre. This initiative introduces a series of workshops where student volunteers teach IT basics to empower and inspire migrants.

of emergency screenings in TRCs: 281

of persons with protection needs: 125

of individual assistance: 174

of beneficiaries reached with info sessions: 704



FOOD INFORMATION SESSION WITH BENEFICIARIES
IN TRC BORIĆI.
©IOM 2024

SHELTER, WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Both IOM and Red Cross maintenance and cleaning teams inspect all installations daily, with two cleanings per day, weekly disinfection, disinfestation and derating measures, and perform regular repairs on shelters and sanitary installations.

In TRC Borići, IOM replaced the building's metal sheet facade and began repairing the UASC area fence damaged by storm a few weeks ago.

of persons sheltered in the TRCs: 613

of laundry services: 939

FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In all TRCs, IOM and cantonal branches of the Red Cross conducted regular food and NFI distribution activities with partner organizations.

During the reporting period, a total of 20,623 meals were served and 3,677 NFIs were distributed. Recognizing the diverse needs of individuals, special attention was given to those who required a specialized diet due to health issues.

Six beneficiaries received special diet food during the reporting period. In addition, dry meal packages were prepared daily for migrants arriving after regular mealtimes, meeting basic nutritional needs for those arriving late.

of meals distributed: 20,623

of NFIs distributed: 3,677

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 78 transportation services (mainly to reception centres) for 143 migrants and conducted 322 general information sessions.

Morocco (27%) was the main declared nationality of assisted migrants, followed by the Syrian Arab Republic (21%), Pakistan (19%), Afghanistan (11%), Nepal (8%), Mongolia (4%), Türkiye (3%), Palestine (2%), Bangladesh, Ghana, Iran, Sri Lanka (1% each).

of persons transported: 143

of people reached with general information: 322

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. The Return and Reintegration team regularly engage in various activities encompassing outreach, information dissemination, counselling, registration, and movement operations.

Between 9 and 22 December 2024, the team reached 207 migrants, of which 116 were being hosted in TRCs and 91 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 to guarantee swift referrals towards protection services. A total of 83 counselling sessions were held to ensure that beneficiaries are well informed and aware of the assistance available during pre-departure, travel, and post-arrival.

Two persons returned to their countries of origin (Azerbaijan 1, Lebanon 1) while one beneficiary applied for AVRR, and their return preparations are currently 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 and key details of AVRR assistance and reintegration opportunities in their community before they return to their country of origin

Applications for Assisted Voluntary Returns: 181 M: 160 F: 21

Assisted Voluntary Returns in 2024: 142 M: 123 F: 19

Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018: 1,562 M: 1,378 F: 184



AVRR CONDUCTING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
IN TUZLA ©IOM 2024

Exploring Migration through Cinema

On 18 December, International Migrants Day, IOM in Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted an event titled “Screening Journeys: The Representation of Migration in Cinema.” Held in Sarajevo, a city renowned for its rich cinematic tradition, the event gathered filmmakers, cultural voices, and migration experts to explore the role of cinema in shaping public narratives and sparking broader debate on the multifaceted realities of migration.

Despite the significant strides made in migration management since 2018, when Bosnia and Herzegovina became a key transit point along the Western Balkans route, public narratives in the country continue to focus on the challenges and risks associated with migration.

This narrow perspective often overlooks the potential of safe and regular migration pathways and their potential to foster cultural exchange, drive sustainable development, and create shared prosperity for both migrants and host communities.

Cinema is a powerful cultural medium, uniquely positioned to transform public perceptions of migration. By telling compelling stories that capture the resilience, ambition, and contributions of migrants, films can move beyond stereotypical depictions or crisis-focused portrayals to offer a more nuanced and balanced understanding of the complexities of migration. This ability to humanize migration holds the potential to foster empathy, challenge prejudices, and inspire meaningful dialogue.

