

MIXED MOVEMENTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: SITUATION UPDATE

December 2022

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

KEY FIGURES

2,616

irregular arrivals recorded during the reporting month

27,429

total arrivals in 2022

1,349

persons accommodated in official reception facilities

4%

children in families

12%

unaccompanied children

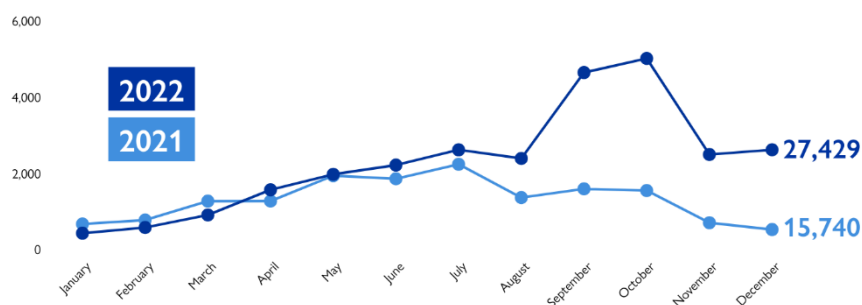
2%

single adult females

246

persons estimated to stay outside of reception centres (as of 8 December 2022)

In December 2022¹, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) recorded the irregular arrivals of 2,616 persons. The number of arrivals remained stable compared to the previous month (2,492) and increased by almost eight times compared to December 2021 (336). The majority of new arrivals declared to be from Afghanistan (69%), Cuba (7%) and Congo (4%). Among those arrivals, 95 per cent (2,484) were issued an “Attestation of Expressed Interest in Asylum” (AISA). Since the start of the mixed movement situation in 2018, 112,582 arrivals were recorded in BiH, while 27,429 arrivals were recorded since January 2022.



As of the last day of the reporting period, 1,349 migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees are accommodated in Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) and other private and NGO-led shelters in BiH. This represents a decrease of 29 per cent compared to the last day of the previous reporting period, indicating that the movements are slowing down as the winter sets in. The map below depicts the distribution of beneficiaries in BiH as of 1 January 2023.



¹ Reporting period: from 5 December 2022 to 1 January 2022

CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

MIXED MOVEMENTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA THIS MONTH:

- **The number of new registrations in TRCs remained stable compared to the previous month.** In December, 5,099 new registrations were recorded in all TRCs, compared to the previous month (5,905). Migrants are spending fewer days in BiH before heading toward the border with Croatia. The **average length of stay in TRCs has decreased** from 53 days in January 2022 to 8 days in December 2022. The high turnover and short period of stay of residents in TRCs represents a challenge in terms of the delivering uninterrupted support to vulnerable persons in the field of GBV, PSS and SRH services.
- Out of all the migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees residing outside TRCs, 33 per cent were in the Una Sana Canton, 33 per cent in the Sarajevo Canton. This was followed by Republika Srpska (14.3%), Bosnian Podrinje (7.1%), Tuzla (6.4%), and Herzegovina- Neretva (5.6%). Although figures remain broadly consistent with the previous month, there has been a **steady increase in the number of migrants and asylum-seekers present in the Republika Srpska**, suggesting that migrants may be attempting border crossings in different locations in BiH. Over 50 per cent of those outside TRCs reported their country of origin to be Afghanistan. Consistent with broader trends in the region, Moroccan nationals continue arriving in increasing numbers and were the second most represented nationality outside of TRCs.
- During the reporting period, 12 persons registered their asylum claims with the Ministry of Security (MoS) – Sector for Asylum (12 cases), eight **Refugee Status Determination** interviews were conducted (involving nine persons), six persons were granted subsidiary protection, one person had its claim rejected and 13 persons had their claims suspended (eight cases). These decisions are not necessarily final and binding. As of 31 December, 75 asylum-seekers (54 cases) await processing and decision in BiH.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

- During the **Interagency Coordination meeting** held in December, discussions focused on challenges related to the decrease of the average length of stay in TRCs, directly impacting the delivery of assistance and services in reception centers. During the meeting all partners presented their daily and monthly activity plans, ensuring that activities do not overlap and that effective coordination mechanisms are in place during the holiday season.
- During the **Interagency Protection Coordination meetings** held in TRCs in December, discussions focused on the high number of beneficiaries with scabies and secondary skin infections registered and the associated protection mitigation solutions. Discussions focused on mainstreaming protection across all its sectors of intervention, ensuring the principle of do no harm, prioritizing safety and dignity, enabling meaningful access, promoting accountability and fostering participation and empowerment.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- [IOM – Displacement Tracking Matrix Report – December 2022](#)
- [UNHCR - BiH Operational update – December 2022](#)
- [UNFPA - Monthly Operational Update – October/November 2022](#)
- [UNICEF - Podrška i prijatelj kojem se djeca mogu povjeriti](#)
- [SCI - HUB opening - School „Harmani I” Bihać](#)



The Mixed Migration Response in Bosnia and Herzegovina is organized jointly by international, national and local partners, in close coordination with relevant authorities.

IOM



In TRCs, to mark International Migrants Day, IOM organized various activities. Thanks to mild and sunny weather outdoor dance contest was organized in TRC Blažuj @IOM 2022

646

Number of services provided by the IOM Mobile Team

5,099

Registrations in all TRCs

1,859

Emergency vulnerability screenings in TRCs

89

Persons identified with protection risks and needs

79,949

Meals distributed

21,805

Non-food items distributed

On 15 December to mark International Migrants Day, together with migrants and actors from Banja Luka, IOM organized the art performance *No Nation Fashion x Jase King*. The performance, followed by the panel discussion “Economic potential of migrants”, took place in the National Theatre in Banja Luka and underscored the importance of harnessing the potential of migrants and their contribution to host societies.

IOM, in support of BiH authorities, provided life-saving assistance to over 5,000 in December. In TRCs, to mark International Migrants Day, IOM organized various activities in all TRC Social Corners. Beneficiaries had the opportunity to watch a documentary film about migration in BiH and participate in a creative workshop on this topic. IOM organized sewing, handcrafting, soap making, wood work and music workshops in all TRCs.

IOM invests continuous efforts to establish robust protection monitoring mechanisms in the TRCs and increase capacities of State and local authorities for case management and assistance to vulnerable categories. In TRC Ušivak, the weekly Feedback and Complaint Committee meetings organized by IOM with participation of partner organizations provided an opportunity to look into beneficiary feedback on topics such as food and non-food items (NFI), recreational activities, maintenance and others.

IOM works closely with partners to increase access to health assistance and education for those accommodated in reception centres. In partnership with Canton Sarajevo Public Health Institute and Una Sana Canton Public Health Institute, IOM organized 4 info sessions in TRCs. The information sessions were delivered in various languages with the support of cultural mediators.

In December, TRC Blažuj marked its third anniversary since opening in 2019. In total, 52,466 beneficiaries have been assisted by IOM since the TRC opened. In TRC Blažuj, in coordination with the SFA and partners, IOM provides accommodation, food, NFI, WASH, protection, AVRR, education and leisure services.



UNHCR



Throughout the month, UNHCR and its partner Vaša prava BiH carried out more than 20 legal information sessions in the Puž House, in the Tuzla Canton, as well as in the Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) Borići, Lipa, Ušivak and Blažuj. Majority of participants were from Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Morocco and Turkey.

The organization of joint information sessions between IOM and UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH continued in the TRCs in the Sarajevo and Una Sana Cantons. Some of the sessions were not held due to a lack of participants from certain speaking areas, which can be partially explained by the large fluctuations in arrivals and departures from the TRCs. During the sessions, participants expressed interest in continuing onwards with irregular migration to European Union Member States, notably in the context of Croatia joining the Schengen area in January 2023.

Among all psychosocial support activities that took place in December and to mark the end of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, UNHCR's partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI) organized a **focus group discussion on the importance of preventing violence against women** as well as on the long-term harmful consequences it leaves on society. Women from Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Iran discussed various topics regarding the position of women and the rights they enjoy or do not enjoy in their countries of origin. In addition, a workshop on gender-based violence prevention was organized in Međugorje, which was attended by 14 Ukrainian women.

In December, two groups of students enrolled in the *Polyglot* school successfully completed a sub-level of Bosnian language course. The year-end period was marked with increased interest in local language classes and willingness to continue education through next levels of language learning.

UNICEF



Primary school in Medugorje, Ukrainian children using distance learning platforms @UNICEF 2022

706

Children on the move benefitting from 24/7 protection and care

233

UASC benefitting from the appointment and support of a legal guardian

128

Refugee and migrant children benefitting from structured non-formal education, language courses and vocational training

45

Refugee and migrant children supported with integration into the formal education system

42

Refugee and migrant children benefitting from Mother-baby corner activities

UNICEF and World Vision (WV) supported 19 children from TRC Ušivak in accessing preparatory programmes in schools and 41 children were supported with school supplies and individual learning materials. UNICEF procured 200 backpacks with school supplies for children on the move. 128 children were reached with non-formal education, including language learning with the Akelius Digital Language course in reception centres and schools. UNICEF supported 17 Ukrainian refugee and USAC children in Medugorje in accessing education opportunities through Ukrainian distance learning platforms and non-formal education. 286 children received winter NFI provided and distributed by UNICEF with support from implementing partner WV.

In December, UNICEF and IP WV organized the meeting between representatives of the SFA for TRC Ušivak, Center for Social Welfare (CSW) Hadžići and SFA/CSW Bihać to exchange good practices and present the Guidelines for UAC in TRC Ušivak defined and adopted by SFA Sarajevo/CSW Hadžići with technical support by UNICEF and WV.

On December 6, a training on "Prevention, recognition and treatment in case of sexual abuse of children in social welfare institutions" was held in Bihać, organized by the Association of Social Workers of the FBiH in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and with the support of UNICEF BiH. Training focused on children on the move in TRCs with the aim of strengthening the capacity of institutions and organizations working in the field.

In December, UNICEF organized and facilitated the national and Una-Sana Child Protection Working Group meeting. One of the outcomes of the meeting is the improvement of coordination and communication between active working groups at the cantonal level.

UNFPA



Presentation of good practices and tools in the Humanitarian Gender-based violence response @UNFPA 2022

UNFPA with support of EU organized the “Presentation of good practices and tools in the Humanitarian Gender-Based Violence Response” event, which gathered representatives of governmental institutions, healthcare providers, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, and other institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to learn about the good practices and tools in the humanitarian Gender Based Violence (GBV) response.

UNFPA organized the event for the promotion of “The Book of Life, Stories of migrants and refugees in the humanitarian response” a compilation of personal stories illustrating the journeys and lives of refugees and migrants and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In December, UNFPA supported 410 vulnerable young men within the Green zones in TRC Lipa and TRC Blažuj. In addition to existing GBV services, UNFPA GBV specialists in the presence of assigned legal guardians held a workshop with adolescent boys raising awareness on GBV. UNFPA Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) support was provided to women and girls addressing difficulties connected with emotional overwhelm, depressions, movement challenges and traumatic reactions. MHPSS Experts ensured individual sessions for adolescent girls, including one unaccompanied adolescent girl with consent and in presence of legal guardian.

UNFPA SRH expert implemented educational sessions in TRC Lipa with focus on mental health in the context of GBV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) with special reference to HIV-AIDS. The UNFPA empowerment program workshops for women and girls focused on education and building social connections through learning languages, creative and relaxing activities. BOTM life skills sessions educated young men on healthy communication, the importance of maintaining health and avoiding stressful situations, understanding emotions and the possibility of describing emotions and their effects on behavior and the body.

433

Number of comprehensive GBV/PSS services provided to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

241

Number of SRH services provided to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

425

Number of empowerment services provided to male migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in line with “Boys and young men on the Move” methodology

240

Number of empowerment services provided to female migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

111

Number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers educated on GBV

DRC



Following the first reported case of seasonal flu in BiH, together with global increase of reported COVID-19 cases, **DRC organized several individual and group health promotion and educational sessions in all TRCs** on how to prevent flu and other respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Through examples of proper hand washing, practicing respiratory hygiene and increasing vitamin intake, PoCs had a chance to learn how to protect their health and wellbeing during winter. As a part of these sessions, as well as inside the infirmaries and by roaming through TRCs, DRC systematically distributed Vitamin C tablets and face masks to PoCs. DRC conducted similar activities in out-of-site locations in USC and TC.

DRC had a chance to facilitate the first European Union Public Health and Migration (EUPHAM) stakeholder workshop in University of Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (USSST). The workshop focused on the existing good practices in public health and migration in BiH, engaged the discussion on EU standards in public health, as well as on transition of health care from international actors to health authorities.

4,672

Number of medical examinations

8,926

Number of medical interventions

42

Number of referrals to Primary and Secondary Healthcare centers

1,014

Number referrals through protection activities in TRCs and outreach

73

Number of persons reporting pushbacks in the reporting period

DRC co-partner Médecins du Monde (Mdm):

General symptomatology for the month of December: feeling nervous, restless, or tense, symptoms of depression, excessive worrying and sleeping problems.

The exhibition „Migrations: Traces left behind“ opened in Historical museum in Sarajevo on 10th December – International Human Right Day. The exhibition is financially supported by IOM BiH, through Social Cohesion project with the aim to promote mental health in migrations and strengthening social cohesion among local and migrant population. Opening was attended by more than 30 people, including migrants, partner organizations, key speakers and general audience.

In the reporting period, several crisis interventions occurred, where Mdm staff with psychiatrist intervened, on DRC request in TRC Lipa.

SCI



NFI support and information sharing to newly arrived potential UASC in Tuzla Canton @SCI 2022

Save the Children in coordination with institutions, as well in partnership with Cantonal Center for Social Welfare Sarajevo and Center for Social Welfare Velika Kladuša continues to support unaccompanied and separated children outside of reception centers.

To scale up multisectoral response regarding child protection, Save the Children organized the Child Protection Working Group in Tuzla Canton. Discussions focused on the prioritization of registration, relocation and accommodation of unaccompanied or separated children to Temporarily Reception Center Ušivak, especially younger minors.

During the month of December, Save the Children Outreach team provided support to Center for Social Welfare Derventa on request of the Service for Foreign Affairs Doboj.

Children who are accommodated in TRC Borići regularly attend HEART school preparatory program organized by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Una-Sana Canton and Save the Children.

With support of Save the Children and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Una-Sana canton, a new digital HUB fully equipped with modern technology devices opened in Elementary School "Harmani I". The project aims to support the education of children on the move and children from the local communities.

192

Potential unaccompanied and separated children benefit from child protection services outside of the reception centres

33

Unaccompanied children supported with legal protection and accommodation from Outreach locations to reception centres

211

Potential unaccompanied children supported in Blažuj reception centre and relocated to Ušivak reception centre

40

Children (including UASC) benefit from HEART school preparatory program

93

Referrals sent to institutions, agencies and organizations

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH IN PICTURES



Art performance IOM No Nation Fashion x Jase King, together with migrants and artists from Banja Luka @IOM 2022



UNICEF/WV MHPSS and workshops organized with beneficiaries in TRCs @UNICEF 2022



Promotion of "The Book of Life, stories of migrants and refugees in the humanitarian response" @UNFPA 2022



Joint IOM – UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH info session in TRC Borići @UNHCR's partner Vaša prava BiH 2022



European Union Public Health and Migration (EUPHAM) stakeholder workshop @DRC 2022



Joint educational-creative workshops for children on the move and children from local elementary schools @SCI 2022



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