

# MIXED MOVEMENTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: SITUATION UPDATE

## October 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

#### KEY FIGURES

**5,010**

irregular arrivals recorded during the reporting month

**22,317**

total arrivals in 2022

**2,942**

persons accommodated in

**6**

official reception centres in BiH at the end of the reporting week including:

**233**

women and girls

**345**

children

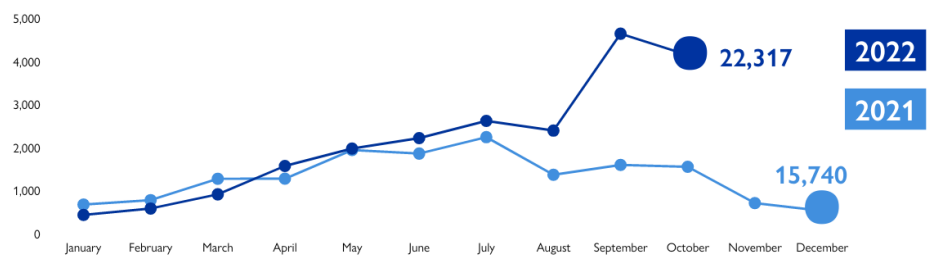
**225**

unaccompanied or separated children

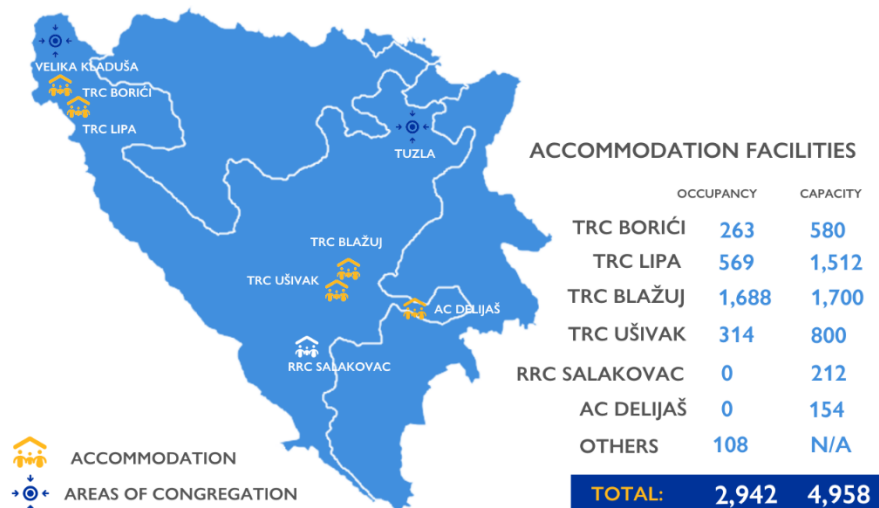
**896**

persons estimated to stay outside of reception centres (as of 27 October 2022)

In October 2022<sup>1</sup>, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) recorded the irregular arrivals of 5,010 persons, the highest monthly figure recorded since October 2018. The number of arrivals increased by 27 per cent compared to the previous month (3,953) and by 312 per cent compared to October 2021 (1,217). The majority of new arrivals declared to be from Afghanistan (45%), Burundi (32%), and Cuba (4%). Among those arrivals, 97 per cent (4,854) were issued an "Attestation of Expressed Interest in Asylum" (AISA). Since January 2018, a total of 107,470 arrivals have been recorded in BiH.



As of the last day of the reporting period, 2,942 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 7 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 6 November 2022.



<sup>1</sup> Reporting period: from 3 October 2022 to 6 November 2022



### CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

#### MIXED MOVEMENTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA THIS MONTH:

- Recent migration trends show a fluctuating number of people on the move in BiH. In October, the turnover in TRCs remains high, indicating a **pattern of high mobility among the migrant, asylum-seeker, and refugee population**. During the reporting period, the rate of arrivals and departures has put additional pressure on the provision of essential services in TRCs, such as food and non-food items (NFI), as well as identification and protection of the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the trend of family separation during movement has brought on new challenges in the provision of protection services in TRCs.
- More than 80 per cent of the persons accommodated in BiH are currently in TRCs in the **Sarajevo Canton**, which is the inverse from the situation observed in previous years, when the vast majority were in TRCs in the Una Sana Canton. Out of all the migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees residing outside TRCs, 38 per cent were in the Una Sana Canton, 28 per cent in the Sarajevo Canton, and 18 per cent in Republika Srpska. Over two-thirds (71%) of those outside TRCs reported their country of origin to be Afghanistan, followed by Burundi (13%), Pakistan (5%) and Iraq (2%).
- During the reporting period, three asylum claims were registered by the Ministry of Security (MoS) – Sector for Asylum, four **Refugee Status Determination** interviews were conducted (involving 7 persons), and ten decisions were issued (7 cases), all of them granting subsidiary protection. These decisions are not necessarily final and binding. Lastly, 28 asylum applications were closed (suspended). As 31 October, 79 asylum-seekers await processing and decision in BiH.

#### INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

- The **inter-agency coordination working group** met two times during the reporting period, on 7 and 12 October. Discussions focused specifically on the high turnover rate in TRCs, and participants identified several actionable steps to adapt the accommodation space. Additionally, agency representatives discussed statistics regarding activities performed in the TRCs, emphasizing the positive impact of the new "green zone", a separate accommodation unit created for young men who are transferred from TRC Ušivak – a family-oriented centre - to TRC Blažuj – a single male centre - when they turn 18.
- During the reporting period, the **inter-agency protection coordination meetings** focused on specific activities addressing the urgent needs of separated children and minors, and on the development of awareness-raising activities related to the potential legal, physical and psychological consequences of separation. Pertaining to women and adolescent girls, there was an increased need for interventions in crises situations and collaboration in supporting Rebuilding Family Connection Programs. Additionally, UNFPA organized trainings on GBV Pocket guide for non-GBV workers for 48 staff members of a partner's organizations in TRCs. The purpose of the training was to provide frontline workers with supporting materials and information on an adequate GBV response in an emergency context.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- [IOM DTM Round 16 – October 2022](#)
- [UNHCR BiH Operational update - October 2022](#)
- [UNFPA Monthly Operational Update - September 2022](#)
- [UNICEF - Podrška i prijatelj kojem se djeca mogu povjeriti](#)
- [SCI - Wherever we go, someone does us harm](#)
- [DRC protection monitoring dashboard](#)



## IOM

IOM, in coordination with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), continues to respond to the high turnover rates of migrants in TRCs. In October, a total of 10,167 new registrations were recorded in the four TRCs. IOM provided day-to-day camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) support to help adapt reception capacities to the dynamic situation observed during the month, which has proven essential to maintain the living standards of those accommodated in TRCs, notably for families.

On 9 October, IOM and the SFA accompanied the European Commission Vice President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis Schinas, during a visit in TRCs in BiH. Vice-President Schinas was in BiH as part of a visit to four Western Balkans (WB) countries, to engage with partners in the region, better understand the situation on the ground and explore how to address the rising number of irregular border crossings along the WB route in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

On 20 and 21 October, the Ministry of Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), in cooperation with IOM and the World Health Organization (WHO), organized a conference focusing on migrants' health. Relevant authorities, including the MoS and other key partners, shared experiences, challenges and opportunities to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships for quality and accessible health services to migrants.

On 27 October 2022, IOM conducted the 16th joint data collection exercise in BiH together with the SFA and the support of the Red Cross Society BiH (RCSBH). IOM deployed 15 teams consisting of 33 enumerators, alongside 15 SFA staff, and 20 RCSBH staff. In total, the teams visited 241 locations in 53 different municipalities, in the seven Cantons of the FBiH and in 57 locations in Republika Srpska (RS). In total, IOM enumerators observed 776 migrants, all of whom declared they resided outside the official TRCs in BiH. However, the IOM estimates the presence of 896 migrants residing outside TRCs.



<b>10,617</b>	registrations in all TRCs during October
<b>3,742</b>	emergency screenings in TRCs
<b>247</b>	persons identified with protection risks and needs
<b>165,294</b>	meals distributed
<b>36,387</b>	NFIs distributed



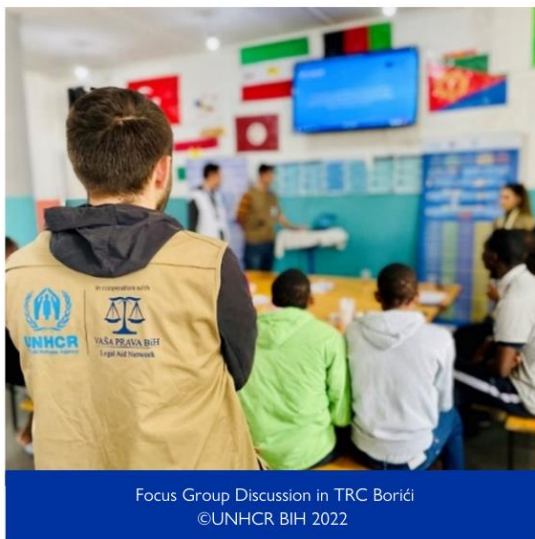
The Mixed Migration Response in Bosnia and Herzegovina is organized jointly by international, national and local partners, in close coordination with relevant authorities.

## UNHCR

All three asylum-claims registered by the MoS' Sector for Asylum in October were cases represented by UNHCR's partner Vaša Prava BiH. UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH carried out more than 50 legal information sessions in Puž House (Tuzla Canton), TRCs Borići and Lipa (Una Sana Canton) and TRCs Ušivak and Blažuj (Sarajevo Canton) and for those staying in private accommodation in Tuzla Canton. Participants were from Burundi, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Ukraine. Focus Group Discussions and peer-to-peer sessions held in the TRCs in Una Sana Canton indicated increased interest of persons from Afghanistan for the asylum procedure. Discussions held with residents in TRC Blažuj also confirmed this trend. Nevertheless, none of the participants formally expressed interest in initiating asylum procedure in BiH.

Among all psychosocial support activities that took place in October, UNHCR's partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI) organized three GBV-focused groups in TRC Ušivak, with nine Iranian women attending. Discussions focused on the current situation in Iran with emphasis on women's rights in the context of the Mahsa Amini case, their position in society and the problems they face in everyday life. Feedback from participants was positive and valuable, as such groups proved to be efficient in reducing stress and enhancing social cohesion among beneficiary population. However, the large fluctuation of residents in TRCs continues to be a challenge to achieving continuity of recreational and occupational activities.

Two persons from Ukraine enrolled in the Polyglot school successfully completed two levels of Bosnian language course. Both of them received certificates and started the third level.



1,154

persons provided with information on access to asylum in BiH

55

persons assisted with free legal aid on access to asylum in BiH

12

people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR / Vaša Prava BiH

695

persons assisted with psychosocial support

22

social, recreational and occupational therapy sessions organized

## UNICEF

UNICEF with its partners World Vision (WV), LAN and FENIX provided support in response to new emerging situation and trends, which are particularly related to cases of separation of family members and temporary accommodation of families in the part of the zone for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in TRC Borići. UNICEF and WV, legal guardians were assigned for children who have been separated and Child Protection (CP) staff monitored cases ensuring additional support through coordination with other field actors.

UNICEF with Mother Baby Corner staff visited nursing mothers and babies, provided additional support in assessing the needs of mothers and babies upon their temporary accommodation in the Lipa reception. In accordance with the assessed needs UNICEF expressed the need for obtaining additional food, mash and baby formula for infants and younger children.

On 5 October, UNICEF organized and facilitated the Child Protection Working Group at the Una Sana Canton level to address all key challenges/priorities related to field coordination when it comes to child protection response. In this regard, one of the action points was related to separate coordination meetings which were organized regarding the identification of unaccompanied children in Bužim municipality and more active involvement of the competent CSW Bužim. One of the workshops organized by UNICEF, WV and FENIX staff in the mother-baby corners was an educational activity for mothers on the following topics: children meningitis, vaccination calendar and the importance of proper nutrition for mothers and children.

UNICEF and WV supported the inclusion of children from TRC Borići and TRC Ušivak in preparatory school programmes in Una-Sana Canton and Sarajevo Canton. Additionally, secondary school-aged children were included in vocational training programmes for chefs and cooks in Secondary School Centre Hadžići. Starting 1 November 2022, in partnership with the Ministry of Education Una-Sana Canton, children from TRC Ušivak will have the opportunity to attend vocational training courses for IT technicians, electrician and chef in two secondary schools in USC.



Educational informal activity in TRC Borići  
©UNICEF BIH 2022

1,007

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

199

UASC benefitting from the appointment and support of a legal guardian

181

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

135

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

179

refugee and migrant children benefitting from Mother-baby corner activities



## UNFPA

The majority of newly identified GBV cases were within the female population, with smaller number of GBV cases in the male population. The types of violence identified include psycho-emotional, physical violence, forced/child marriage and forced military conscription. The UNFPA team observed an increase in reported cases of sexual violence. Reported GBV cases generally occur during movement and/or in the country of origin. Most female survivors report UNFPA centers to be first point of specific support considering their lived experiences and particular needs for adequate information and other vital GBV services.

The UNFPA team continued to work with vulnerable single women with emphasis on stabilizing emotions, reducing potential risks and increasing empowerment. UNFPA held introductory workshops on "GBV and Human rights" for newly arrived persons in Sarajevo Canton TRCs. GBV educational sessions were held for male residents in TRC Lipa and covered various GBV related topics. UNFPA and SFA in TRC Lipa will jointly coordinate the reception and accommodation procedures of newly arrived young adults for accommodation in the protection sensitive accommodation, so-called Green Zone. Given the increased number of newly arrived young men, UNFPA in TRC Blažuj together with SFA/IOM, expanded capacities of the Green Zone. UNFPA held Women and Girls Committee meeting with representatives of female residents in TRC Borići. Focus of UNFPA psychological support was on single women and single mothers, whose psychological conditions are impaired and required special interventions, with the aim of achieving all safety elements necessary for the normal functioning.

Psychosocial support for GBV/protection vulnerable young men was based on their needs and addressed daily challenges, current mental states and overall difficulties. In addition to regular UNFPA sexual and reproductive health services implemented in synergy with health care centers, in October, through the Think Pink campaign UNFPA educated women and girls on the importance of self-examination in early detection of breast cancer and timely prevention and action.



- 453** comprehensive GBV/PSS services provided to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- 615** SRH services provided to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- 623** empowerment services provided to male migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in line with "Boys and young men on the Move" methodology
- 464** empowerment services provided to female migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- 86** migrants, refugees and asylum seekers educated on GBV

## DRC

DRC BiH, with the support of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sarajevo conducted research on the legal needs of persons not in the asylum-seeking process and who have resided in BiH for some time. The research was based on international standards, the protection of human rights, and its comparison with the national legal framework of BiH and general practices. As a result, DRC can respond more adequately to legal information needs of people on the move in BiH.

In cooperation with the SFA of BiH, DRC has established an isolation ward within the infirmary that operates in Temporary Reception Center Lipa, where currently around 500 people on the move - single men - are accommodated. The isolation ward's capacity is 18 places, where positive cases of monkey pox infected persons would be accommodated. The isolation ward will also accommodate people suffering from other communicable diseases such as scabies or COVID-19. Preparedness to relocate people currently residing in the TRC Lipa is also in place. In the case of a more complex clinical picture, they will be placed in health facilities in the Una-Sana canton.



Breast cancer awareness session  
©DRC BiH 2022

**8,135** medical interventions

**11,421** medical examinations

**121** referrals to Primary and Secondary Healthcare center

**5,305** referrals through protection activities in TRCs and outreach

**375** persons reporting pushbacks in the reporting period

## SCI

During month of October, SCI teams across BiH reached and supported 354 newly arrived or staying out of reception centers potential UASC (349 boys, 5 girls), ensuring timely identification, referrals to registration and other services, protection information sharing and first psychological aid. In October, outreach teams sent 376 referrals, mostly to Red Cross for NFI and FI, SFA, IOM, CSW and DRC. SCI outreach teams supported relocation of 34 potential UASC to TRC Ušivak and TRC Borići from Outreach locations (27 UASC to TRC Ušivak, and 7 UASC to TRC Borići). SCI legal guardians in Velika Kladuša continued providing support to UASC, identified in Velika Kladuša.

SCI legal guardians assisted in relocation of 60 UASC (56 boys, 4 girls) to TRC Borići from Velika Kladusa area. In TRC Blažuj, SCI team identified 360 potential UASC, out of which 308 reported to be newly arrived. SCI supported SFA and Center for Social Welfare with organizing relocation of 239 potential UASC, and 16 potential male families with 16 children to TRC Ušivak. In October, a total of 154 children (107 boys, 47 girls), out of which 10 UASC (8 boys, 2 girls) benefited from HEART school preparatory program activities implemented by SCI and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Una – Sana Canton. In the afternoon hours various sports (98), educational and creative workshops (62) were organized as well as support in homework and other school tasks. The preparatory school activities took place in Elementary School “Harmani I” Bihać as well as in other elementary schools’ playgrounds and sports halls. Children learned about International Girls Day and World Mental Health Day through educational and creative workshops.



**354**

(5 girls, 349 boys) potential unaccompanied and separated children supported out of reception centers

**34**

unaccompanied children supported with legal protection and accommodation from Outreach locations to reception centers

**60**

(4 girls, 56 boys) unaccompanied children supported with legal guardians in front of Center for Social Welfare Velika Kladuša and accommodated in TRC Borići

**239**

potential unaccompanied children supported in Blažuj reception center and relocated to Ušivak reception center

**154**

children (107 boys, 47 girls – including UASC) benefit from HEART school preparatory program



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH IN PICTURES



Food distribution line in TRC Blažuj 2022  
©IOM BIH 2022



Children in school  
©UNICEF BIH 2022



Trainings on GBV  
©UNFPA BIH 2022



Visit Ukrainian children  
©UNHCR BIH 2022 and UNICEF BIH 2022



Breast cancer awareness  
©DRC BIH 2022



Marking International Girls Day  
©SCI BIH 2022



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