

March 2021

ROUND 01



4 Cantons
27 Municipalities



76
locations
covered



1,754 migrants
outside reception,
out of 1,927 identified
in total

On 17 March 2021, a first joint pilot data collection exercise was conducted by IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), together with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs¹ (SFA), to collect information on the number of migrants,² asylum seekers present in the country. The purpose of the exercise was to provide an estimation of the migrant population (stock) that has not been accommodated or registered in any official Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) at a given point in time.

Ten teams were established for a total of 36 enumerators, out of which 17 were males and 19 females. The data collection exercise was implemented in 4 Cantons, for a total of 76 locations: 46 locations in 8 Municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, 17 locations in 6 Municipalities in Canton Sarajevo, 5 locations in one Municipalities in Herzegovina – Neretva Canton, and 16 locations in 12 Municipalities in Tuzla Canton.

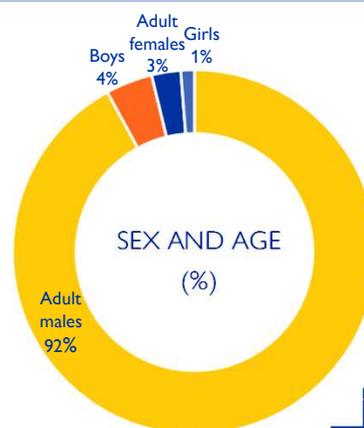
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND LOCALIZATION

The total number of migrants identified in the locations covered was 1,927 out of which **1,754 stated that they were not accommodated in any of official TRCs in BiH.**

Afghanistan (42%) and Pakistan (29%) are the two nationalities² with the highest number of persons outside of TRCs in BiH. Overall, these two national groups make up **71 per cent of total migrants** without accommodation in TRCs. Other nationalities include Morocco, Algeria, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Papua New Guinea, Syrian Arab Republic, Palestinian Territories, Somalia and Sudan.

Out of 1,754 migrants without accommodation in TRCs, 1,535 reported that they entered BiH from Serbia, 218 from Montenegro, and one from Croatia.

Gender disaggregated data show that most migrants outside TRCs are adult males (1,528), followed by boys (69), adult females (43), and girls (20), while for 94 cases the gender is unknown. Overall, adult males represent the 84 per cent of total migrant population identified outside TRCs in BiH. Furthermore, according to data collected, 70 per cent of boys and girls are from Afghanistan, while for all other nationalities, the number of boys and girls is significantly lower.

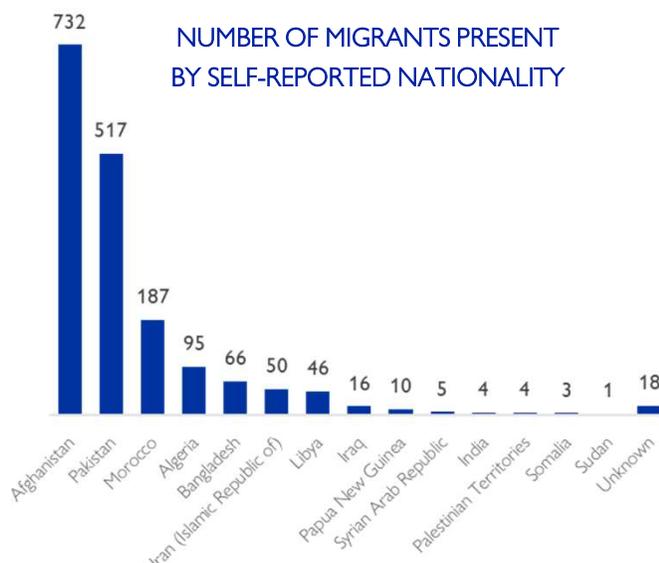


70% of children
are from Afghanistan

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Most migrants outside TRCs were found in Una-Sana Canton (USC) and Canton Sarajevo (CS), while a smaller number was present in Tuzla Canton (TC) and Herzegovina – Neretva Canton (HNC). In USC there were in total 1,295 migrants (74%), in CS - 362 (21%), TC - 85 (5%), and HNC - 12 (less than 1%). Migrants from Morocco were the only nationality present in all four Cantons. With regards to migrants from Pakistan, only 11 were identified in USC. Nationalities that were exclusively present in CS were Palestinians, Somalis, and Sudanese.

Only 276 (18%) out of 1,754 migrants outside TRCs would be interested in being accommodated in one of centres. According to the data collected, on average, most migrants have spent more than three months in the country (79%). Furthermore, assessed migrants were also asked to report on the number of days spent outside TRCs and 59 per cent stated they have spent more than three months outside the centres.



1. The SFA, within the Ministry of Security (MoS), is the responsible party for the registration of all foreigners on the territory of BiH, including the issuing of attestations of those expressing the intention to seek asylum. The MoS is also formally responsible for the management of the Immigration Centre and the Temporary Reception Centres.

2. As no document check was carried out during data the collection exercise, migrants include asylum seekers and refugees.

3. Nationalities were self-reported by migrants and no formal checks were conducted. Information on nationality is based on declaration by migrants to national authorities.

MIGRANT PRESENCE OUTSIDE RECEPTION

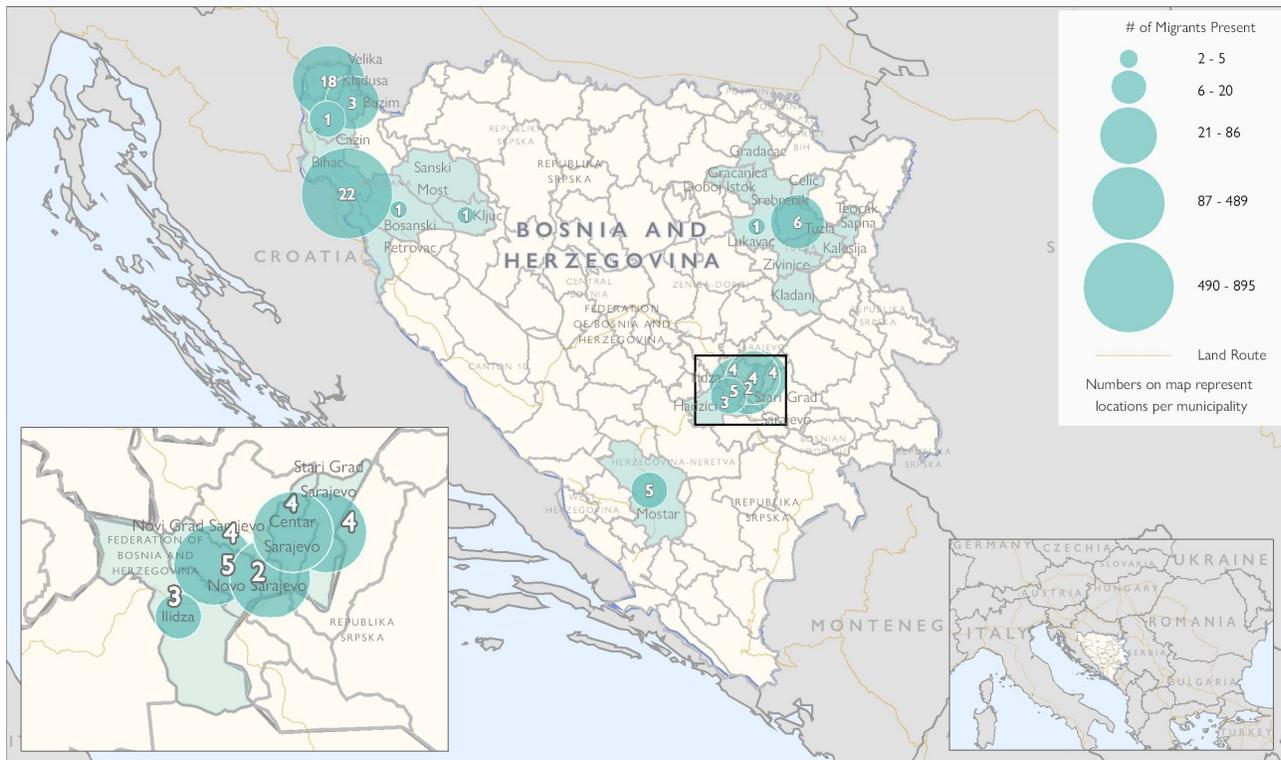
Bosnia and Herzegovina
17 March 2021

est. **1,754** MIGRANTS OUTSIDE TRANSIT
RECEPTION CENTERS*

Assessed locations in

4
Cantons

27
Municipalities



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Source Data : IOM, National Authorities

HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

The questionnaire was designed to capture information on specific individual conditions and **vulnerable groups** among the assessed population. The following vulnerable groups were identified: 35 **unaccompanied children**, 18 **children under five years old**, 1 **pregnant woman**. All of them were referred to either accommodation centres or, where available, to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), for further medical assistance.⁴ No persons with physical disabilities and elderly above 60 years old were observed among the assessed population.



Moreover, a total of 196 migrants reported **medical issues** (mostly scabies, and pain in legs, arms or back). More specifically, **migrants who reported health issues were referred to DRC**, in locations where DRC outreach teams, were present, while in all other locations, vulnerable migrants were referred to TRCs for further assistance. In one particular case, a migrant with severe mental health issues, identified in the municipality of Stari Grad in CS, was transferred for adequate assistance to TRC Blažuj, in coordination with the IOM Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) staff.

INTENDED DESTINATIONS

Most migrants reported that their final destination was **Italy** (38%), followed by **France** (20%) and **Germany** (20%), followed by **Belgium** (10%) and **Switzerland** (4%). Italy, France, and Germany alone make up 78 per cent of intended final destinations mentioned by migrants. Canada (1%) is the only non-European country mentioned by assessed migrants as their intended final destination. Out of the total number of migrants assessed, 90 (5% of total population) preferred not to respond to questions related to their intended final destination.



4. DRC has outreach teams that are distributing food, NFIs and providing medical assistance on the spot to migrants in BiH.

METHODOLOGY

DTM in BiH

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to capture and monitor displacement and population movements. It was designed to capture, process and disseminate information regularly and systematically to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile populations in places of displacement or transit.

In BiH, DTM is collecting data on transits/apprehensions by nationality at entry in the country and the number of migrants present in the Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) since 2017 as part of the broader DTM Europe monitoring of mixed migration flows through the Western Balkans to Europe.

Design of the data collection – Round 01 pilot

The exercise fostered a three-folded aim: to provide an estimate of the stock of migrants outside official reception at a given date, to provide IOM with the ability to refer identified migrants to existing shelters and services whenever they are available, and to support in planning other humanitarian interventions or developing appropriate sustainable solutions.

Geographical coverage

27 Municipalities in four Cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) in BiH, chosen by IOM for their well-known high presence of migrants.

Target population

Foreign nationals travelling through or stranded in BiH outside TRCs. Migrants who are already accommodated in an official TRCs were excluded from the count. The exercise included all migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, as the legal status of migrants was not assessed.

Time frame

Round 1 was carried out on the 17 March 2021. Future rounds of the data collection will last one solar day, every month, with multiple teams of enumerators.

Enumerators

Ten teams for a total of 36 enumerators (17 M, 19 F), with English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto language skills. Enumerators were deployed by DTM Europe and provided with referral contacts in case of need to offer further assistance to the assessed population. The SFA local staff participated in the exercise with four inspectors, one in each Canton and facilitated access to some locations. All enumerators were instructed to explain the purpose of the exercise to the migrants present in each location and obtain oral consent before continuing with the questions.

No individual data was collected through the questionnaire.



Data collection methods

The questionnaire was available in paper form and online/mobile Kobo form in English. All data were collected and stored in the Kobo Server managed by IOM HQ in Geneva. The questionnaire was made of five main sections:

1. Total estimated presence of migrants outside TRCs in one location
2. Sex and age breakdown for the top 5 nationality groups
3. Main vulnerabilities and Health issues
4. Main Routes, Transport, Destinations
5. Interest in being referred to TRCs

After the main geographical information, the questionnaire was designed to collect information on main nationalities, age and sex breakdown of the assessed population. One section was dedicated to counting persons with specific characteristics / belonging to the specific groups. The fourth section collected basic information on the main transportation modes used by migrants to reach BiH and move within the country, and on the main intended destinations. The final section recorded the number of those who would be interested in being transferred/given access to a TRCs if there was the possibility (availability of place, vicinity of the TRCs etc.).



Limitations

Providing a quantitative measure of stranded migrants and migrants' transits within and through a country is a complex task, that requires at least methodological, technical and logistical resources. In the absence of official statistics, estimates are the main way to gain a clearer picture of the size of the phenomenon.

IOM builds on its already established presence in a selected number of Cantons in BiH to provide an estimate of the stock of the migrant population outside TRCs at a specific point in time. The data collection exercise was conducted within the context of the following limitations:

1. Geographical coverage was limited to a selected number of locations in a selected number of Cantons, due to:
 - a. the limited number of staff available to IOM
 - b. the existing restrictions in place to certain locations
1. Adverse weather conditions on the day of data collection may reduce the number of migrants present outside.
2. The SFA' presence to the data collection exercise provides access to some locations but may hinder migrants' participation in other locations and/or may cause some bias in migrants' replies to the questions.

Photos:
IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina and Service for Foreigners' Affairs staff data collection, 2021 © IOM