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MIGRANT PRESENCE OUTSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTRES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



21 July 2022

ROUND 14



50 municipalities
in
**7 cantons in FBiH and
5 regions in RS**



**240
locations**
covered



**426 migrants observed,
743 migrants estimated**
outside TRCs

On 21 July 2022, the fourteenth joint data collection exercise was conducted by IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), together with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA),¹ and with the support of the Red Cross Society BiH (RCSBH), to collect information on the number of migrants and asylum-seekers² present in the country. The purpose of the regular exercise is to provide an estimation of the migrant population (stock) that is not accommodated or registered in any official Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) at any given date.

Fourteen teams were deployed with a total of 35 enumerators (28 males and 7 females), plus 13 SFA staff (11 males and 2 females) and 17 RCSBH staff (13 males and 4 females). The data collection exercise was implemented in 7 Cantons of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and in 48 locations in the RS entity. A total of 240 locations³ in 50 different municipalities were visited: 76 locations in 5 municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, 39 locations in 6 municipalities in Sarajevo Canton, 32 locations in 10 municipalities in Tuzla Canton, 37 locations in 5 municipalities in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, 4 locations in 4 municipalities in West Herzegovina Canton, 3 locations in 1 municipality in Bosnian Podrinje Goražde Canton, and 1 location in 1 municipality in Canton 10. In Republika Srpska (RS), the teams visited 10 locations in Bijeljina, 8 locations in Zvornik, 6 locations in Kozarska Dubica, 3 locations each in Bratunac and Vlasenica, 2 locations each in Gradiška, Novi Grad, Rogatica, Srbac, Ugljevik and 1 location each in Banja Luka, Milići, Prijedor, Istočni Stari Grad, Kostajnica, Lopare, Novo Goražde and Sokolac (see Map on p.2).

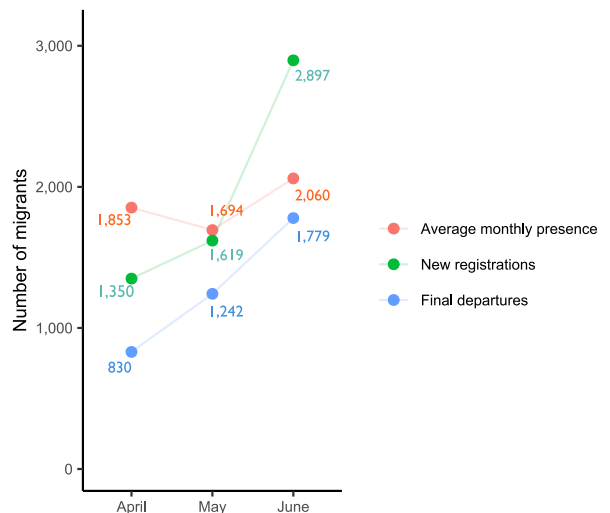
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND LOCALIZATION

The total number of migrants observed at the time of data collection was 426, all of whom declared they were not hosted in any of the official TRCs in BiH. However, 743 is the number of migrants who are estimated to reside in the locations visited. Please refer to the methodology section for more details on the difference between observation and estimation methodologies.

The number of migrants observed in Round 14 is lower than in the last round. In contrast, it should be noted that the number of migrants registered at arrival in the country has been increasing significantly since the beginning of the year (source: Ministry of Security of BiH). This is confirmed by the high number of newcomers registered in the TRCs in BiH through the Smart Camp application⁴ compared to their low presence in the TRCs. This shows that many migrants register for a short time to get basic humanitarian assistance and leave immediately to continue their journey to the European Union (EU). At the same time, this also explains the rather low number of migrants observed out of reception centres, due to the high mobility of the migrant population concerned, which can also be drawn from the data gathered by IOM at the Western Balkan level.⁵ It is therefore assumed that an increasing number of migrants are transiting through the country faster than before.

Pakistan (30.4%), Afghanistan (29%) and Burundi (7%) are the three main declared nationalities⁶ of observed migrants residing outside of TRCs in BiH, followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (6.3%), Bangladesh (6%), and Iraq (4%). Other declared nationalities include Morocco (3.1%), India (2.9%), Cameroon and the Republic of Türkiye (2.5% each), Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.8%), Algeria (1.5%), Syrian Arab Republic and Guinea, Mali, the Republic of Congo, Egypt, Somalia, Togo and Tunisia with less than 1 per cent each.

ARRIVALS, PRESENCE AND DEPARTURES OF
MIGRANTS IN TRCs IN BIH, APRIL - JUNE 2022



The graph above serves to provide a contextual background and an explanation of the recent trend that has been observed through the data collected on the number of migrants present outside the TRCs. In particular, the graph shows that from April to June 2022 an increase in the number of new migrants registered in the TRCs was accompanied by an increase in their departures, which underlines a high turnover rate which, given the greater mobility of the population concerned, has resulted in a reduced presence outside reception. Specifically, the three variables shown reflect the **average monthly presence of migrants** (red line), the **monthly number of new registrations** (green line) and the **monthly number of departures** (blue line) in the TRCs in BiH in the period April-June 2022.

1. The SFA, within the Ministry of Security (MoS), is the responsible party for the registration of all foreigners on the territory of BiH. 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 the data collection, migrants include asylum seekers and refugees.

3. Number of locations visited refers to the number of micro locations which are characterized by unique geo-referenced coordinates.

4. The Smart Camp application is an online software used by IOM and SFA to register migrants residing in TRCs with the aim of providing an overview of the services provided and to better shape the assistance. The software keeps track of the number of registered, newly registered migrants, and departing migrants, their profile, nationality and the support provided in terms of non-food and food items, washing facilities, etc.

5. [Europe Arrivals | Flow Monitoring \(iom.int\)](#)

6. Nationalities in this report are those self-reported by migrants.

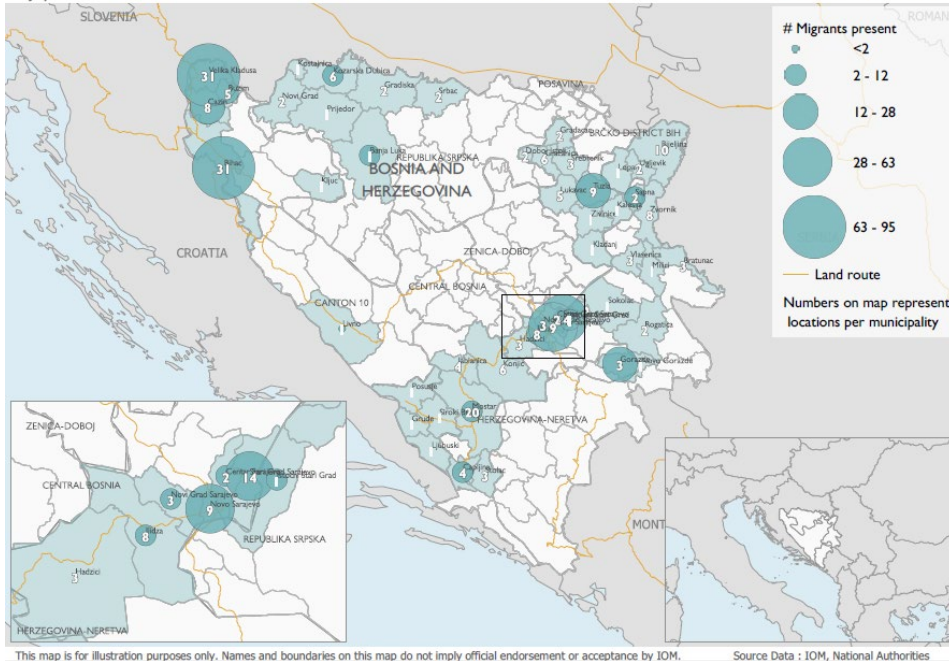


MIGRANT PRESENCE OUTSIDE RECEPTION

Bosnia and Herzegovina
21 July 2022

Est. **426** MIGRANTS OUTSIDE TRANSIT
RECEPTION CENTERS*

240 Assessed locations in
7 Cantons in FBiH **5** Regions in RS **50** Municipalities

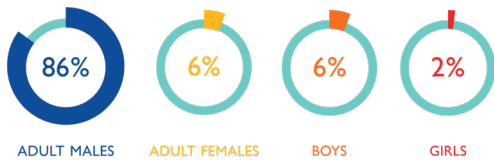


For the first time since IOM started conducting the exercise to estimate the number of migrants out of TRCs, Burundian nationals represent one of the top three nationalities. This is in line with the data recorded at arrival in the country and the presence in TRCs, where this nationality has seen a sharp increase in recent months.⁷ The collected data suggest that the nationalities are constantly evolving, and are increasingly diversified, due to a multitude of factors, including smuggling and trafficking networks, the existence of free visa regimes, and so on.

Most of the observed migrants (71.1% of the total) reported that they entered BiH from Serbia, 21.6 per cent entered from Montenegro, while for 7.2 per cent of migrants this information is unknown.

In terms of the type of locations covered, half of the observed migrants were found in outside locations (51.1%), including bus stations, followed by abandoned buildings (26.7%), makeshift barracks or tents (7.8%), paid hostels (7%), private accommodation they can use for free and other not defined locations (6.6% each), and paid private accommodation (3.4%). Interestingly, an increasing share of migrants have been mapped in transit locations, thus confirming a progressive increase in the movement of the migrant population compared to the previous round. According to the methodology used, migrants residing in paid hostels are counted in the number of people who do not reside in official TRCs in BiH. It should be emphasized that places are available in the country's TRCs. Migrants can decide not to reside in TRCs, despite the best efforts of IOM, SFA and other humanitarian actors to inform them of the assistance available in the TRCs.

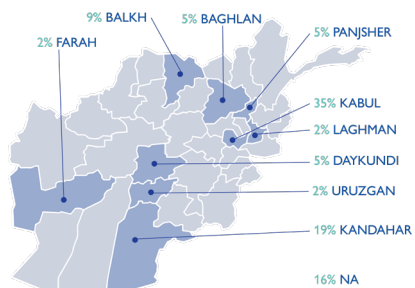
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA



Sex and age disaggregated data show that most migrants outside TRCs are adult males (85.4%), followed by adult females (6.3%), boys (5.8%) and girls (2.5%). Most of the children are from Afghanistan (45.9%), followed by those from Iraq (27%), the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan (8.1% each), the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey (5.4% each). Interestingly, Burundian children were not observed in Round 14 as opposed to the previous round when they were the third nationality registered, representing over 12 per cent of all children observed outside reception.

Out of all migrants from Afghanistan, 34.8 per cent reported being from Kabul province, followed by 18.6 per cent from Kandahar province, 8.5 per cent from Balkh province, 5.4 per cent each from Baghlan and Daykundi provinces, 4.6 per cent from Panjsher provinces, and 2.3 per cent each from Farah, Laghman and Uruzgan provinces. For 15.5 per cent this information is unknown.

MAIN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AS REPORTED BY
THE MIGRANTS FROM AFGHANISTAN



7. This is mainly due to the fact that Burundian nationals have a visa free regime with Serbia and move further into the EU via BiH.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

In line with the previous observations, a decreasing number of migrants outside the TRCs (48.7%) was found in Una-Sana Canton (USC), 8.9 per cent less than in the previous round, followed by 30.5 per cent in Sarajevo Canton (SC), which is 14.2 more than in the previous round. Interestingly, in Republika Srpska the number doubled compared to the previous round, where 10.3 per cent of the total migrant population was observed (4.3% in Round 13). Furthermore, 5.3 per cent of migrants residing outside TRCs were found in the Tuzla Canton (TC), 2.9 per cent in the Bosnian Podrinje Canton (BPC), 1.7 per cent in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNC) and less than 1 per cent in Canton 10. No migrants were observed in the Western Herzegovina Canton (WHC).

HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

The questionnaire captures information on specific individual conditions and vulnerable groups among the observed population. The following vulnerable groups were identified and represent 5.4 per cent of the total migrant population mapped outside reception facilities in BiH: 12 persons with medical problems, including scabies, injuries, and fever, 11 children under 5 years of age, 11 unaccompanied and separated children between 15 and 17 years of age and 3 women traveling alone.

HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

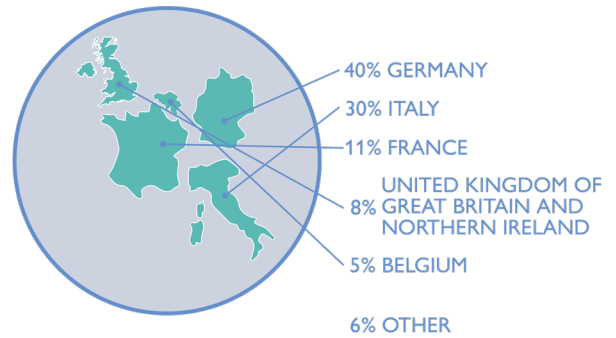


The data collection also aimed to identify the type(s) of medical problem(s) among the migrants staying outside TRCs, based on observations made by the enumerators. This is to understand if there are unmet health needs, and if migrants in need had received assistance in the two weeks prior to the data collection. Of the 10 migrants observed, who declared they needed medical assistance in the past two weeks, 3 declared they could not receive it.

INTENDED DESTINATIONS

In Round 14, the country that emerged as the main intended destination was Germany (39.7%), followed by Italy (30%) and France (11%). Other reported destinations included the United Kingdom (8.4%) and Belgium (4.7%), while for 6.3 per cent of observed migrants the information is unknown. It is interesting to note that the share of migrants who declared they wanted to go to Italy decreased by 27.4 per cent compared to the previous round; this is mainly due to the sharp drop in the number of Afghans interviewed who declared they wanted to go to the country (-23%).

INTENDED DESTINATIONS



For Pakistani nationals, Italy is the main intended destination (77%), followed by Germany (16.3%), while for Afghan nationals in first place is Germany (59.7%), followed by Italy (20.5%) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (18.6%). As for the nationals from Burundi, most migrants observed want to go to France (58.1%), followed by Germany (29%) and Belgium (12.9%).

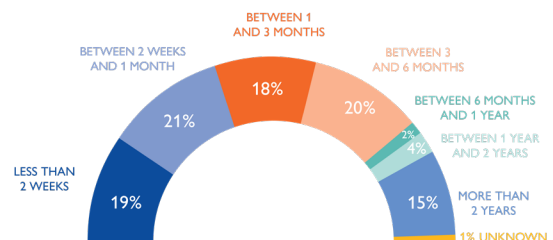
REFERRAL INFORMATION

Overall, 40.2 per cent of the migrants observed spent less than a month in BiH, confirming the high mobility observed in the last weeks, which also emerged from other key indicators mentioned in the report.

In round 14, one fifth of migrants (20.7%) reported spending between 2 weeks and 1 month in BiH, 20.2 per cent between 3 and 6 months, 19.5 per cent less than 2 weeks, 14.8 per cent spent more than 2 years, 3.5 per cent between 1 and 2 years, 1.6 per cent between 6 months and 1 year, and for 1.4 per cent of mapped migrants this information is unknown.

Furthermore, 35.9 per cent of the migrants met during this round declared they were aware of the option for voluntary return and assisted reintegration (AVRR) to their country of origin offered by IOM, which is a 6.8 per cent increase compared to the previous round. Lastly, 3 migrants expressed interest in information on legal pathways to be able to stay in BiH, representing less than 1 per cent of the total number of observed migrants.

LENGTH OF STAY IN BIH



METHODOLOGY

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to capture and monitor displacement and population movements, and to disseminate information regularly and systematically. In BiH, DTM is collecting data on transits/apprehensions by nationality at entry points, and data on the number of migrants present in Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs). These data have been collected since 2017 as part of the broader DTM Europe monitoring of mixed migration flows through the Western Balkan and the Mediterranean routes to Europe. Since 2021, DTM in BiH is also collecting data on migrants' presence outside reception centers and individual Flow Monitoring Surveys with migrants in reception.

Design of the data collection – Round 14

Geographical coverage

In Round 14, 50 Municipalities in 7 Cantons of FBiH and in 5 regions of the RS entity were chosen by IOM for their well-known high presence of migrants. The total number of locations visited takes into account micro locations. Micro locations shall be understood as unique locations with specific geographic coordinates.

Target population

Foreign nationals travelling through or stranded in BiH outside TRCs. Migrants who are already accommodated in official TRCs were excluded from the count.

Time frame

Round 14 was carried out on 21 July 2022..

Enumerators

Fourteen teams with a total of 35 enumerators (28 M, 7 F), with language skills in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto, together with 17 staff from the Red Cross Society BiH (13M, 4 F) and 13 inspectors from SFA local staff (11 M, 2 F).

Data collection methods

The questionnaire is available in paper form and as an online/mobile Kobo form in English. All the collected data is stored on the Kobo server managed by IOM in Geneva. The questionnaire has five main sections: Total estimated presence of migrants outside TRCs in one location; Sex and age breakdown for the top 5 nationality groups; Main vulnerabilities and Health issues; Main Routes, Transport, Destinations; Interest in referral and further information. Starting from Round 05, an additional question was added to understand the main province of origin of migrants from Afghanistan, given the recent events that are affecting the country.

Starting from Round 13, IOM introduced a second methodology based on data triangulation. Triangulation refers to the triple verification that is conducted by interviewing at least three key informants residing in the same locations visited to obtain more accurate estimates. Such key informants are the migrants themselves and must be independent of each other. The reason for the introduction of this methodology is that the existing questionnaire, as it is structured, collects information at the stock level, carrying out group and not individual interviews, thus leading

to possible inconsistencies with reality. Therefore, this second methodology makes it possible to estimate the actual population in outside locations, which may not be present at the time of data collection, as some locations are reached at times of the day when migrants are more mobile, for instance to get food.

Limitations

IOM builds on its already established presence in a selected number of municipalities in BiH and on its activities covering the whole country 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 select number of locations in BiH. Since the inception of the project in 2021, thanks to the addition of cantons in FBiH and five regions in the entity of RS, IOM's range of action and geographical coverage has significantly increased. Due to the high mobility of irregular migrants during the summer period, some new locations may not have been visited during the exercise.
2. The SFA's presence during the data collection exercise facilitates access to some locations but may hinder migrants' participation in other locations and/or may cause some bias in migrants' replies to the questions.
3. Since there is no possibility to accurately determine the data obtained using the second methodology, it is considered only an estimate which, in combination with the existing methodology, will help to obtain a more accurate picture of the situation on the ground. Having a more accurate estimate of the number of homeless people allows IOM, state authorities and humanitarian actors to better respond to migration and provide tailored assistance to those in need.

Although IOM is committed to constantly and accurately monitor the locations where migrants tend to usually reside - thanks also to the support of other humanitarian organizations working in the field - these can change rapidly, in line with the seasons and routes, but also due to other factors (e.g. smuggling and trafficking networks, visa free regimes by nationality, etc.) which have a significant impact on the number of migrants and locations identified through the data collection exercise.



Picture 1. IOM enumerator with SFA inspector collecting information on migrants and asylum seekers residing outside the official TRCs in BiH.