



53 municipalities
in
**7 cantons in FBiH and
6 regions in RS**



**241
locations
covered**



**776 migrants observed,
896 migrants estimated
outside TRCs**

On 27 October 2022, the IOM conducted the 16th joint data collection exercise in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) together with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs¹ (SFA) and the support of the Red Cross Society BiH (RCSBH). The purpose of this exercise is to collect information on the number of migrants and asylum-seekers² present in the country as well as to provide an estimation of the migrant population currently not accommodated or registered in any official Temporary Reception Centre (TRC). The IOM deployed 15 teams consisting of 33 enumerators (23 male, 10 female) with the addition of 15 SFA staff (13 male, 2 female), 20 RCSBH staff (12 male, 8 female) in the seven Cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and in 57 locations across the Republic of Srpska (RS). In total, the teams visited 241 locations³ in 53 different municipalities. In FBiH, the teams visited 75 locations in four municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, 34 locations in six municipalities in Sarajevo Canton, 28 locations in ten municipalities in Tuzla Canton, 37 locations in five municipalities in Herzegovina – Neretva Canton, four locations in four municipalities in West Herzegovina Canton, four locations in one municipality in Bosnian Podrinje Goražde Canton, two locations in two municipalities in Canton 10. In RS, the teams visited 13 locations in Zvornik, seven locations in Bijeljina, five locations in Kozarska Dubica, four locations in each in Bratunac and Derвента, three locations in Vlasenica, two locations each in Gradiška, Šamac, Kostajnica, Novo Goražde, Doboj and Rogatica, one location each in Banja Luka, Brod, Modriča, Novi Grad, Milići, Prijedor, Srbac, Vukosavlje and Sokolac (see Map on page 3).

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND LOCALIZATION

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. For details on the difference between observation and estimation figures, please refer to the [methodology section below](#). In round 16, there was a 5.9 per cent increase in the number of migrants observed outside official TRCs. This is consistent with the growing number of migrants registered at arrival in the country on a weekly basis by the Ministry of Security of BiH as well as broader trends in the Western Balkan region. The IOM and SFA also continue to register growing numbers of migrants in TRCs⁴.

Turnover in the TRCs remains high, highlighting a pattern of high mobility among the migrant population. This high turnover rate could be explained by unusually favourable weather conditions, but also changing route patterns related to border management controls as well as trafficking and smuggling networks.

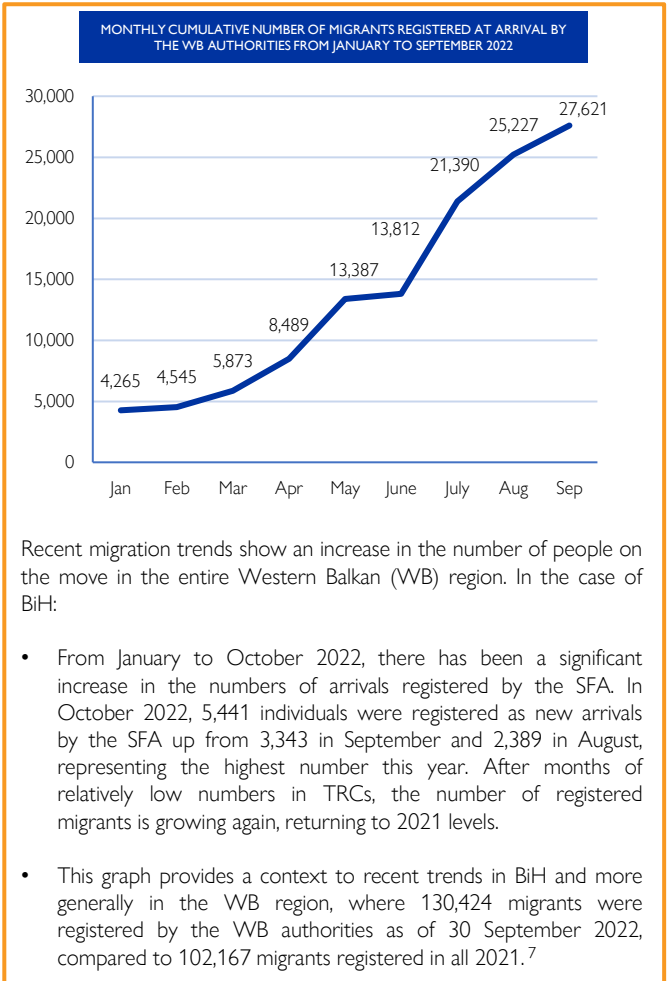
Over two-thirds (71.1%) of the migrants outside TRCs reported their country of origin to be Afghanistan, followed by Burundi (13.7%), Pakistan (5.2%) and Iraq (2.9%). Other declared nationalities include Turkey (1.9%), Morocco (1.6%), Algeria (1.2%) and Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen each with less than one per cent.

For the second round in a row, Afghans are the most represented nationality with a 13.1 per cent increase from the last round. Nationals of Burundi also saw a 2.4 per cent increase, in line with registration figures for Burundians collected by the SFA. Burundians represent the second most registered nationality in BiH in 2022, after Afghans⁵. In contrast, there was a 7.35 per cent decrease in migrants who reported Pakistan as their country of nationality, possibly highlighting that Pakistani nationals are choosing alternative routes⁶.

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 TRCs.

2. No document checks are carried out during the data collection to confirm the statements. Interviewees therefore include asylum seekers and refugees.

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



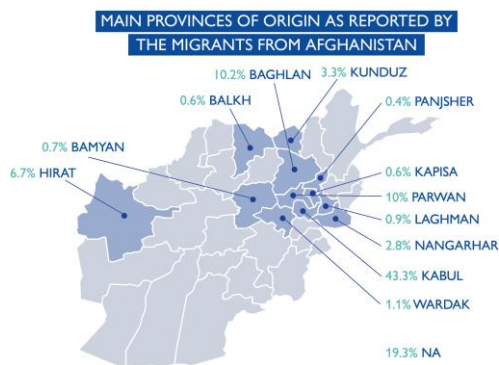
4. Registrations are conducted through the Smart Camp application, an online software used by the IOM and SFA to register migrants and their needs in TRCs.

5. Burundians could travel visa free to Serbia until 20 October 2022, when the government of Serbia formally suspended the visa free regime.

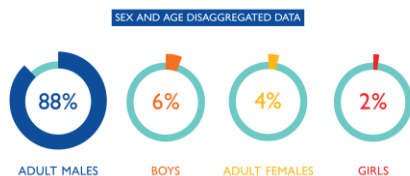
6. The Government of BiH signed a readmission agreement with the government of Pakistan in 2020. The first returns of Pakistani nationals from BiH took place in August 2022.

7. Data retrieved from the IOM's Flow Monitoring Portal

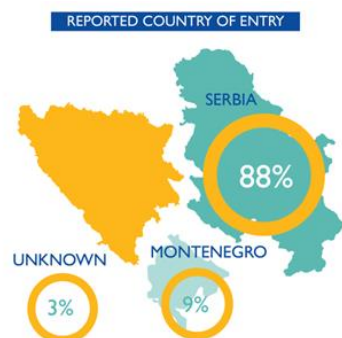
Almost two-thirds (64.4%) of the children are nationals of Afghanistan, followed by Burundi (13.6%), Iraq (11.9%), Morocco (5.1%), Syrian Arab Republic (3.4%) and the DRC (1.7%). **The main Afghan provinces of origin** reported were **Kabul** (43.3%), **Baghlan** and **Parwan** each with 10 per cent, Hirat (6.7%), Kunduz (3.3%), Nangarhar (2.8%), Wardak (1.1%), followed by Laghman, Bamyán, Balkh, Kapisa and Panjsher provinces each with less than one per cent. The data collected demonstrates that the countries of origin among migrants is changing due to a variety of factors, including visa policies, human trafficking and/or smuggling networks, but also connections with friends and family.



The vast majority of migrants outside TRCs are adult males, representing 88.4 per cent of the total population. Boys compose 6.2 per cent of the population, followed by females over 18 at 3.8 per cent and girls making up 1.6 per cent of migrants outside TRCs in BiH.

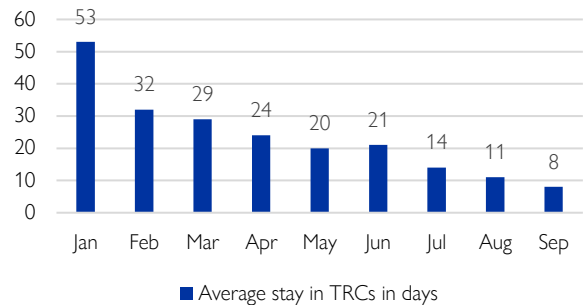


87.8 per cent of the migrants reported that they had entered BiH from Serbia, a significant rise compared to the last round when 61.2 per cent reported having entered from Serbia. 8.8 per cent stated they had arrived from Montenegro, compared to 26.7 per cent who entered from Montenegro in the last round.



More than two-thirds (69.4%) of the migrants observed were in outside locations including half (50.1%) who were found at bus stations while 19.3 per cent were found at other outside locations including train stations. 20.9 per cent of the migrants were observed in abandoned buildings followed by 3.8 per cent in paid private accommodation, 2.2 per cent in free private accommodation, 2.1 per cent in makeshift barracks or tents, and 1.6 per cent in paid hostels.

Overall, consistent with the previous round, **a growing share of migrants have been found at transit locations such as bus stations and other outside locations.** This suggests greater internal mobility of the migrant population. Migrants residing in paid hostels are counted as people who do not reside in official TRCs, despite the availability of places at TRCs. Migrants are free to decide if they want to reside in TRCs.



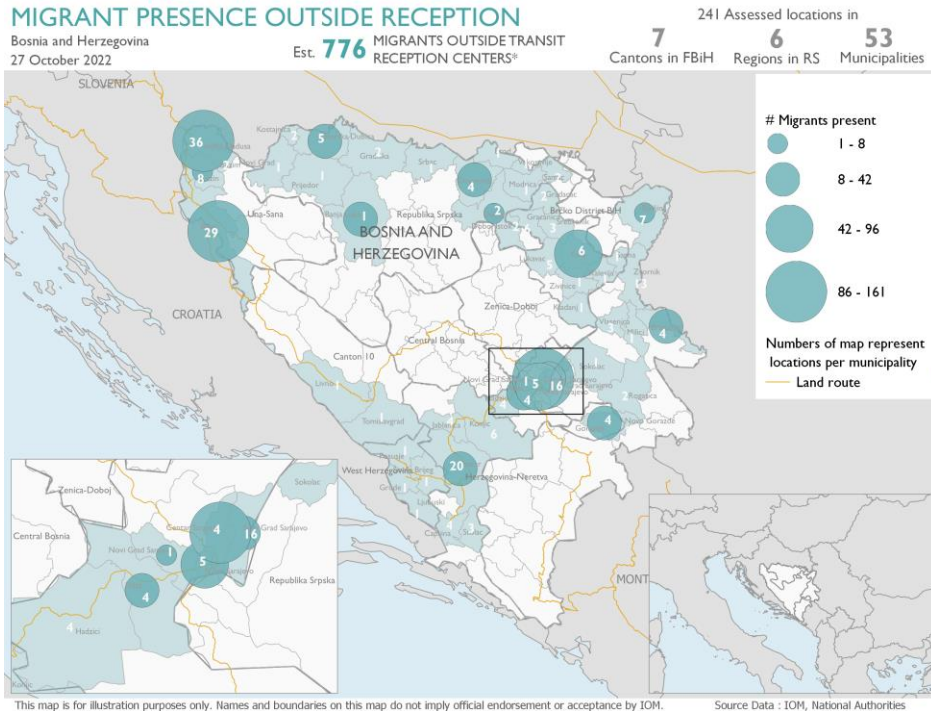
This is also in line with the average length of stay, in days, that migrants reside in TRCs, which has also been steadily decreasing in 2022.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

38.7 per cent of migrants outside TRCs were in Una-Sana canton. 28.2 per cent of migrants were in Sarajevo Canton while 18.6 per cent were in Republic of Srpska, followed by 10.7 per cent in Tuzla. 2.8 per cent in Bosnian Podrinje and 1.2 per cent in Herzegovina – Neretva Canton. Although these figures are broadly consistent with the previous round, the migrant presence in the Republic of Srpska has grown steadily, peaking in October 2022. There were no migrants found in Canton 10 or West Herzegovina Canton.

HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

The questionnaire captures information on specific individual conditions and vulnerable groups among the migrants. In this round, **7.5 per cent of the interviewees reported some form vulnerability.** There were 42 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) between the ages of 15 and 17. Twenty-seven people reported medical problems including injuries, wounds, scabies and allergies. There were 19 women traveling alone as well as nine children under the age of five and one UASC under 15. There were two elderly people (over 60 years of age), two people with disabilities and one pregnant woman.



This data collection exercise also attempts to identify potential medical problems among migrants staying outside TRCs. This is to understand if there are unmet health needs and if people in need of medical attention have indeed received medical assistance in the previous two weeks. In this round, 18 people reported having been in need of medical assistance in the previous two weeks, but only one person received medical help.

INTENDED DESTINATIONS

In round 16, **48.3 per cent of respondents reported Germany as their intended destination outside of BiH followed, a 10 per cent increase from the previous round.** France was the second most intended destination with 16.6 per cent, a nine per cent increase from the previous round. This was followed by Italy at 10 per cent, which is a 15 per cent decrease from the previous round. 4.4 per cent mentioned Belgium followed by Netherlands (1.7%), Switzerland (1.4%) and finally Denmark and Austria at less than one per cent. For 10.7 per cent of respondents, the information was either not known or they mentioned "Europe" generally.

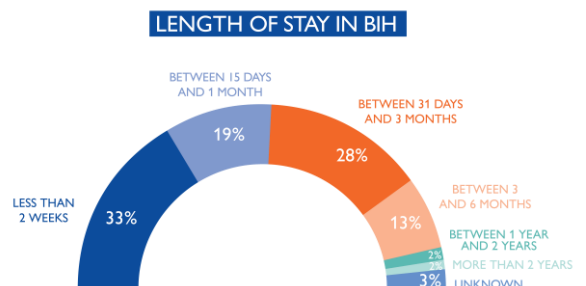
As for the top three nationalities, **61.2 per cent of the Afghan nationals reported Germany as their intended country of destination,** followed by France at 8.9 per cent and Italy 8.3 per cent, the Netherlands (2.4%), Belgium and Denmark each at less than one per cent. For 8.7 per cent of Afghan respondents, this information was unknown. **For Pakistani nationals, Italy remains the main intended country of destination with 51.3 per cent,** followed by Germany (10.3%), Austria (7.7%) and France (5.1%) while for 10.3% this information was not known. **For Burundian nationals, the main intended countries of destination were France (44.7%), Belgium (29.1%), Switzerland (10.7%), Italy (8.7%), and Germany (5.8%),** reflecting a clear preference for francophone countries.

REFERRAL INFORMATION

Consistent with previous findings, most migrants are highly mobile. In this round, **52.4 per cent of migrants had been in BiH for less than one month.** Of these, **33 per cent reported having been in BiH for less than two weeks.** This was followed by 28.2 per cent who report spending between one and three months, an increase from the previous round when only 6.9 per cent reported staying for that duration of time. 13 per cent of respondents reported that they had stayed for between three and six months, while those who stayed for over six months consisted of less than three per cent of the population.

Overall, over half of the migrants stay in BiH for less than a month demonstrating that it is a highly mobile group, moving rapidly through BiH in an attempt to cross the border into the European Union. Only 0.34 per cent of the migrants expressed an interest in remaining in BiH with recognised legal status, residence permit, work permit and the possibility of family reunification.

38 per cent of the migrants in this round declared that they were aware of the option of voluntary return and assisted reintegration (AVRR) to their countries of origin.





METHODOLOGY

The IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system used to capture and monitor displacement and population movements, and to disseminate information regularly and systematically. In BiH, DTM collects 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 has also been collecting data on migrants' presence outside reception centers and individual Flow Monitoring Surveys with migrants in reception.

Design of the data collection – Round 16

Geographical coverage

In round 16, the IOM chose 53 municipalities in seven Cantons of the FBiH and in six regions of RS entity were due to their well-known high presence of migrants. The total number of locations visited takes into account micro locations. Micro locations are unique locations with specific geographic coordinates.

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.

Time frame

Round 16 was carried out on 27 October 2022.

Enumerators

Fifteen teams for a total of 33 enumerators (23M, 10F), with language skills in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto, together with 20 staff from the Red Cross Society BiH (12M, 8F), 15 inspectors from SFA local staff (13M, 2F).

Data collection methods

The questionnaire is available in paper form and as an online/mobile Kobo form in English. The questionnaire consists of five main sections: Total estimated presence of migrants outside TRCs in one location; Sex and age breakdown for the top five nationality groups; Main vulnerabilities and health issues; Main Routes, Transport, Destinations; Interest in referral and further information. Starting from Round 5, an additional question was added to understand the main provinces of origin of migrants from Afghanistan, in light of events affecting the country.

Starting from Round 13, the 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 locations visited to obtain more accurate estimates. These key informants are 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.

This second methodology therefore 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 buy 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 six 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 it is not possible 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 people outside TRCs allows IOM, state authorities and humanitarian actors to better respond to migration and provide tailored assistance to those in need.

The IOM is committed to continually and accurately monitoring the locations where migrants tend to usually reside with the support of other humanitarian organisations. However, these can change rapidly, in line with the seasons and routes, but also due to other factors such as smuggling and trafficking networks, visa free regimes by nationality, which have a significant impact on the number of migrants and locations identified through the data collection exercise.



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