



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



**254**  
locations  
covered



**652 migrants observed,**  
**846 migrants estimated**  
outside TRCs

On 13 September 2022, the fifteenth joint data collection exercise was conducted by IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), together with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs,<sup>1</sup> and with the support of the Red Cross Society BiH (RCSBH), to collect information on the number of migrants and asylum-seekers<sup>2</sup> 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.

Fifteen teams were deployed with a total of 35 enumerators (23 males and 12 females), plus 15 SFA staff (13 males and 2 females), and 20 RCSBH staff (13 males and 7 females). The data collection exercise was implemented in 7 Cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and in 64 locations in Republika Srpska (RS) entity. A total of 254 locations<sup>3</sup> in 54 different municipalities were visited. In FBiH, the teams visited 72 locations in 5 municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, 38 locations in 5 municipalities in Sarajevo Canton, 30 locations in 6 municipalities in Tuzla Canton, 37 locations in 5 municipalities in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, 4 locations in 4 municipalities in West Herzegovina Canton, 7 locations in 1 municipality in Bosnian Podrinje Goražde Canton, and 2 locations in 2 municipalities in Canton 10. In RS, the teams visited 17 locations in Zvornik, 9 locations in Bijeljina, 5 locations in Ugljevik, 4 locations in Vlasenica, 3 locations each in Gradiška and Kozarska Dubica, 2 locations each in Banja Luka, Bratunac, Brod, Derventa, Modriča, Novi Grad, Rogatica and Šamac, and 1 location each in Doboј, Kostajnica, Lopare, Milići, Prijedor, Sokolac and Višegrad (see Map on p.2).

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND LOCALIZATION

The total number of migrants observed at the time of data collection was 652, all of whom declared they were not accommodated in any of the official TRCs in BiH. However, 846 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.

In Round 15, a clear pattern of high mobility of the migrant population observed in BiH became evident. Compared to the previous round, this time the number of migrants observed is significantly higher (+ 34.6%), which is in line with the growing number of migrants registered at arrival in the country on a weekly basis, as reported by the Ministry of Security of BiH, as well as with a trend observed in recent months in the entire Western Balkans (VWB). In addition, Round 15 showed high percentages of migrants who declared they had been in BiH for less than a month (65.4%) and those who are in locations of mere transit (67%). This could be due to several factors, including favorable weather conditions, but also to changing routes dynamics related to border management controls and trafficking and smuggling networks. Lastly, to corroborate the high-mobility pattern, an increasing number of newcomers to BiH's TRCs continue to be registered through the Smart Camp application,<sup>4</sup> in conjunction with a high turnover rate, as highlighted in the previous round [Round 14](#).

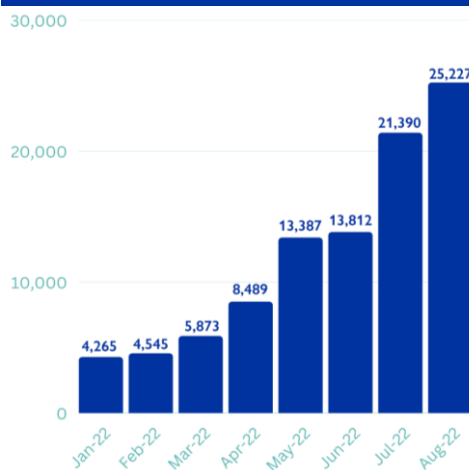
More than half of the migrants observed stated that their country of origin<sup>5</sup> was Afghanistan (58%), followed by significantly lower percentages for Pakistan (12.5%) and Burundi (11.3%). Other declared nationalities include Bangladesh (4.2%), Iraq (2.8%), Nepal (2.6%), India (2.2%), Algeria (2%), and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Türkiye, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia with less than 1 per cent each. Continuing the trend observed in the previous round, Burundian nationals

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.

MONTHLY CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS REGISTERED AT ARRIVAL BY THE WB AUTHORITIES FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST 2022



Recent migration trends show an increase in the number of people on the move in the entire VWB region, which in the specific case of BiH is highlighted by several indicators, including:

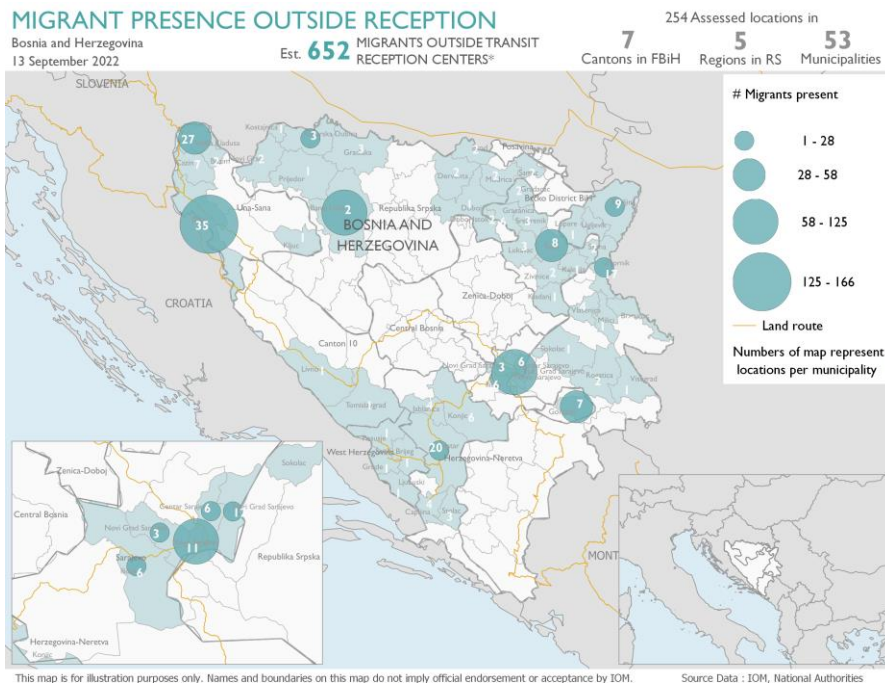
1. An increasing number of migrants were registered at arrival in the country. From January 2022 a progressive increase is observed with current weekly numbers equal to the monthly number of the first months of the year.
2. After months of relatively low numbers in TRCs, the number of registered migrants is growing again, returning to 2021 levels.
3. A progressive increase in the number of migrants who are staying outside reception, mostly observed in locations of mere transit.

The graph above serves to provide a contextual background to the recent trends observed in BiH and more generally in the VWB region, where 96,988 migrants were registered by the VWB authorities as of 31 August 2022, compared to 102,167 migrants registered in all 2021.<sup>6</sup>

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.

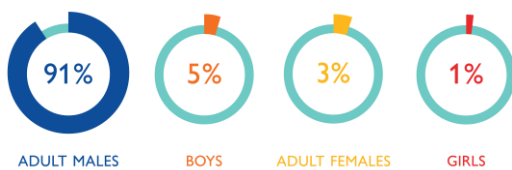
5. Nationalities in this report are those self-reported by migrants.

6. Please refer to [Europe Arrivals | Flow Monitoring \(iom.int\)](#)



represent one of the top three nationalities, progressively increasing compared to Round 14 (+ 3%). This is consistent with the data at arrival in the country and of presence in the TRCs, where this nationality has seen a sharp increase in recent months, representing to date the second most registered nationality.<sup>7</sup> The data collected suggest that a growing diversification of nationalities is taking place, due to a variety of factors, including the existence of visa-free regimes, human trafficking and/or smuggling networks, but also connections with friends and/or family.

SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA



Sex and age disaggregated data show that most migrants outside TRCs are adult males (90.6%), followed by boys (5.2%), adult females (2.8%), and girls (1.4%). Overall, adult males represent more than four fifths of the migrant population identified outside TRCs in BiH. Almost three quarters of migrant children are from Afghanistan (73.8%), followed by Iraq (16.6%), and Burundi and the Syrian Arab Republic (4.8% each).

In Round 15, out of the total number of migrants from Afghanistan, 34.7 per cent reported they were from Nangarhar province, followed by 23.1 per cent from Kabul, 7.2 per cent from Farah, 7 per cent from Kunar, 5.9 per cent from Jawzjan, 3.5 per cent from Ghazni, 3.2 per cent from Parwan, 1.8 per cent from Bamyan, 1.3 per cent from Nuristan, 1 per cent from Takhar and less than one per cent from Hirat, Paktya, Baghlan, Laghman and Panjsher, while for 7.5 per cent this information is unknown.

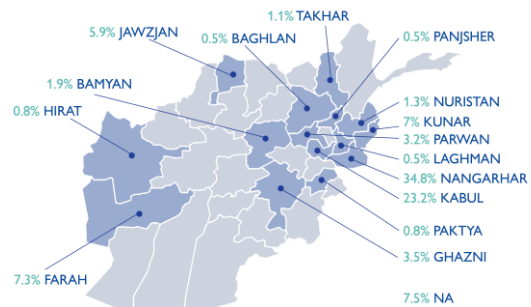
Most of the observed migrants (61.2% of the total) reported that

they entered BiH from Serbia, which is almost 6 per cent more than in the previous round, followed by 26.7 per cent who declared they entered from Montenegro (+5% compared to Round 14), while for 12 per cent of migrants this information is unknown.

In terms of the type of locations covered, most migrants observed were found in outside locations (67%), including bus stations (52%) and other outside locations (15%), which represents an increase of 25% per cent compared to the previous round. These are followed by abandoned buildings (14.4%), paid hostels (6.2%), paid private accommodation (5.8%), makeshift barracks or tents (4.1%), and private accommodation they can use for free (2.2%).

Overall, as with the previous round, a growing share of migrants was observed in transit locations such as bus/train stations and other outside locations, which suggests greater internal mobility of the migrant population.

MAIN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AS REPORTED BY THE MIGRANTS FROM AFGHANISTAN



In line with the methodology used, migrants residing in paid hostels are counted in the number of people who do not reside in official TRCs in BiH. However, it should be emphasized that places are available in the country's TRCs.

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

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.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

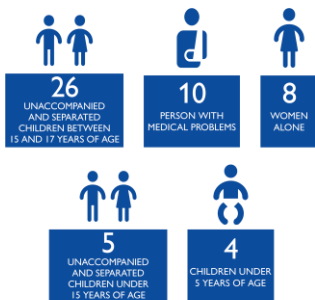
Most of the migrants outside TRCs (32.9%) were found in Una-Sana Canton (USC), which is 16 per cent less than in the previous round, followed by 25.5 per cent in the Sarajevo Canton. Consistent with previous observations, the share of migrants doubled compared to the previous round in the entity of Republika Srpska, where 21 per cent of the total migrant population was observed (10.3% in Round 14). This could provide an indication of a shift in the route taken by migrants, considering that their percentage has grown gradually (from 1% to 21%) since January 2022. In addition, 10.4 per cent of migrants were mapped in the Bosnian Podrinje Canton, followed by 6.8 per cent in the Tuzla Canton, and lastly 3.3 per cent in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNC). No migrants were observed in the West Herzegovina Canton and Canton 10.

## 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 8.1 per cent of the total migrant population mapped outside reception facilities in BiH: 26 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) between 15 and 17 years of age, 10 persons with medical problems, including leg injuries, as well as tiredness and exhaustion from the journey, 8 women traveling alone, 5 UASC under 15 years of age and 4 children under 5 years of age.

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 was done in order 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 12 migrants who declared they needed medical assistance in the past two weeks, 8 declared they could not receive it.

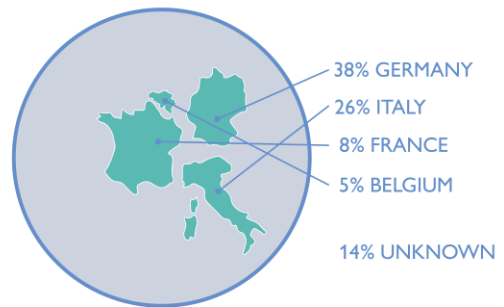
### HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES



## INTENDED DESTINATIONS

In Round 15, the country that emerged as the main intended final destination was Germany (38%), followed by Italy (25.6%) and France (7.6%). Other reported destinations included Belgium (4.9%), Portugal (2.3%), Spain (1%), and Denmark, North Macedonia, Switzerland and "Europe" with less than 1 per cent each.

### INTENDED DESTINATIONS

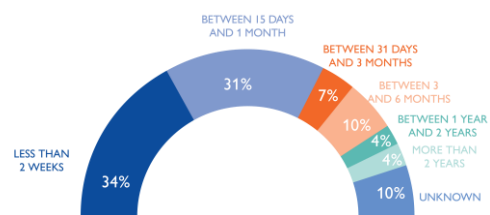


Interestingly, four per cent of the migrant population interviewed declared BiH as the intended final destination.

As for the main intended destination of the top three nationalities, most Afghan nationals intend to go to Germany (44.2%), followed by Italy (26.7%) and France (9.7%), while for Pakistani nationals, Italy is the main intended destination (51.3%), followed by Germany (21.3%) and Belgium (18.8%).

As for the nationals from Burundi, most migrants want to go to Germany (54.2%), followed by France (11.1%) and Belgium (9.7%). Interestingly, France, which had been ranked as the first intended destination in previous rounds, was mentioned 47 per cent less this time. Burundians are presumed not to have a clear final destination as they all arrive in the WB by air to Belgrade via Turkey (and to a lesser extent by land route from Greece), with the promise of finding a job in Serbia.

### LENGTH OF STAY IN BIH



## REFERRAL INFORMATION

In round 15, 33.9 per cent of migrants reported having been in the country for less than 2 weeks, followed by 31.4 per cent reporting having spent between 2 weeks and 1 month in BiH, 9.7 per cent between 3 and 6 months, 6.9 per cent between 1 and 3 months, 4.1 per cent between 1 and 2 years, 3.9 per cent said they had spent more than 2 years in the country, while for 9.9 per cent of migrants mapped this information in unknown. Overall, this means that a significant portion of the mapped migrant population, corresponding to 65.4 per cent of the total, is moving rapidly through the country in an attempt to cross the border into the EU.

Furthermore, 53.3 per cent of the migrants encountered during this round declared that they were aware of the option for voluntary return and assisted reintegration (AVRR) in their country of origin offered by IOM, which is a 17.4 per cent increase compared to the previous round.



## 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 15

#### Geographical coverage

In Round 15, 54 municipalities in seven Cantons of the FBiH and in five 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 15 was carried out on 13 July 2022..

#### Enumerators

Fifteen teams with a total of 35 enumerators (23M, 12F), with language skills in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto, together with 20 staff from the Red Cross Society BiH (13M, 7F), and 15 inspectors from SFA local staff (13 M, 2F).

#### 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 collecting information on migrants and asylum seekers residing outside the official TRCs in BiH.