



August 2021

ROUND 05



**31 Municipalities**  
in  
**6 Cantons**



**180**  
locations  
covered



**1,009 migrants**  
outside TRCs,  
out of 1,013  
mapped in total

On 31 August 2021, a fifth joint data collection exercise was conducted by IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs<sup>1</sup> (SFA), and legal guardians whose participation was facilitated by Save the Children (SCI) to provide an estimation of the migrant and asylum-seeker<sup>2</sup> population (stock) present in the country and who are not accommodated or registered in any official Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) at a given point in time. 10 teams were established for a total of 33 enumerators (23 M, 10 F), plus 11 SFA staff (8 M, 3 F) and 8 legal guardians from SCI (2 M, 6 F). The data collection exercise was implemented in six Cantons, in 31 Municipalities for a total of 180 locations: 74 locations in 5 Municipalities in Una-Sana Canton, 42 locations in 10 Municipalities in Tuzla Canton, 40 locations in 6 Municipalities in Canton Sarajevo, 19 locations in 5 Municipalities in Herzegovina – Neretva Canton, 4 locations in 4 Municipalities in West Herzegovina Canton and 1 location in 1 Municipalities in Canton 10 (see [Map](#) at p.2).

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND LOCALIZATION

The total number of migrants mapped in the locations covered was 1,013 out of which **1,009 stated that they were not accommodated in any of the official TRCs in BiH.**

The number of migrants observed in Round 05 is lower than **expected**, especially considering the time of year, tending to higher number of persons tempting to cross the borders, and the good weather conditions that occurred on the day of data collection. However, as for the previous rounds of data collection, variations in the presence of migrants observed during the period since March can be explained by some factors influencing the data collection, which include the number of staff employed and of the places visited, and the weather conditions. In addition, similar to what has happened in the past, the increased presence of SFA staff in this round, with one SFA staff per team deployed, may have contributed to a lower presence of migrants in outside locations, or could indicate that a higher number of migrants managed to cross the border with the European Union (EU). In line with the previous four rounds conducted, the number of migrants who declared that they were not accommodated in reception centres, out of the total number of migrants observed, continued to increase: **91 per cent in the first round, 97 per cent in the second round, 99 per cent in the third round, and almost 100 per cent in the fourth and fifth rounds.**

**Afghanistan (47%) and Pakistan (31%) are the two main declared nationalities<sup>4</sup>** with the highest number of persons outside of TRCs in BiH, followed by Morocco and Bangladesh representing 5 per cent of the total each. Other declared nationalities include Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon, and Turkey.

Sex and age disaggregated data show that **most migrants outside TRCs are adult males (744)**, followed by adult females (97), boys (88), and girls (76). **Most of the children are from Afghanistan (90%), which is 13 per cent more than in Round 04,** followed by Iraq (4%), Pakistan (3%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (2%) and Morocco (1%). For all other nationality groups, the share of boys and girls is significantly lower.

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 in the country.

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

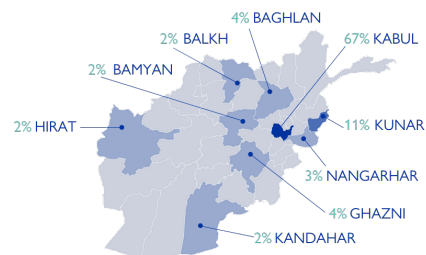


**2,677** migrants assisted in TRCs

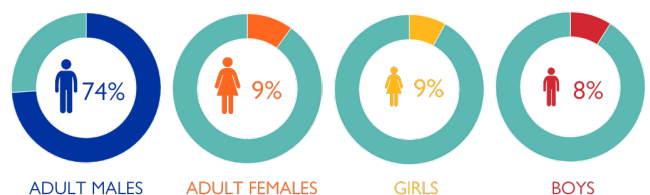
**1,853** extra beds available in TRCs<sup>5</sup>

In Round 05, an additional question was introduced to understand the main provinces of origin of migrants who declared to come from Afghanistan. Out of the 469 migrants identified from Afghanistan, **316 (67%) are from the province of Kabul**, followed by 51 (11%) from Kunar, 17 from Baghlan (4%), 17 from Ghazni (4%), 15 from Nangarhar (3%), 11 from Kandahar (2%), 10 from Hirat (2%), 8 from Bamyan (2%), 8 from Balkh (2%), 4 from Kunduz (1%), 3 from Parwan (1%), and 2 from Wardak (0%). For 6 migrants the province of origin is unknown (2%).

MAIN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AS REPORTED BY  
THE MIGRANTS FROM AFGHANISTAN



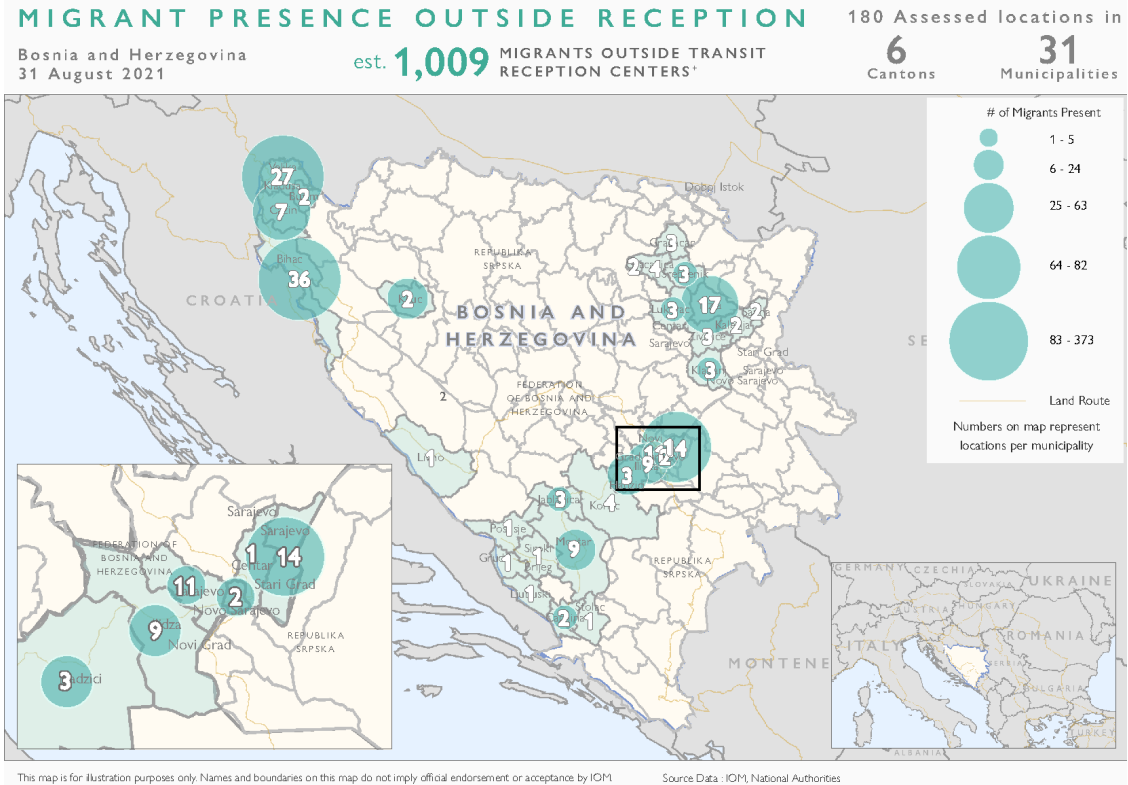
Out of 1,009 migrants without accommodation in TRCs, **847 reported that they entered BiH from Serbia**, 74 from Montenegro, 67 from Croatia, while for 21 migrants this information is unknown. Similar to the previous rounds, **most migrants (95%) entered BiH by foot**, followed by other means of transportation such as bus (2%), and taxi (1%). For 2 per cent of migrants mapped **SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA** unknown.



3. Number of locations visited refers to the number of places identified by unique geo-coordinates. Of the 180 locations visited, in 91 there were no migrants present.

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

5. The numbers refer to data as of August 31, 2021.



On the type of location where migrants were observed, and in line with previous rounds, most of the migrants observed were found in abandoned buildings (34%), followed by outside locations (29%) including bus and train stations, private accommodation they could use for free (9%) and by paying a rent (8%), makeshift barracks or tents (6%), paid hostels (4%) and other non-specified locations (11%). It is worth emphasizing that, in most cases, the locations where migrants were observed are those where they actually live, with the exception of outside locations such as bus and train stations, which instead indicate their transit to other places.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

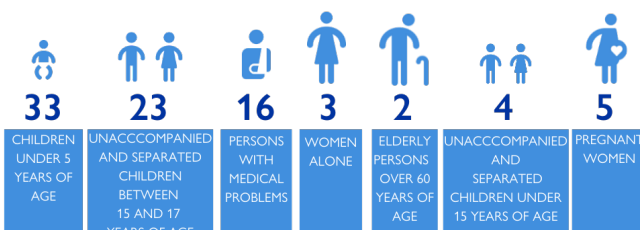
Most migrants outside TRCs were found in Una-Sana Canton (USC), while a smaller number was present in Canton Sarajevo (CS), Tuzla Canton (TC), and Herzegovina – Neretva Canton (HNC). As for the previous rounds, no migrants were found in the covered locations of the West Herzegovina Canton (WHC) and Canton 10 instead. In USC there were in total 804 migrants (80% of the total), in CS - 115 (11%), TC - 67 (7%), in HNC - 23 (2%).

## HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

The questionnaire also captures information on specific individual conditions and vulnerable groups among the observed population. The following vulnerable groups were identified which represent 9 per cent of the total migrant population mapped: 33 children under five years old, 23 unaccompanied children between 15 and 17 years old, 16 persons with medical problems (10 in need of medication, 2 in need of psychological support, 1 with fever, 1 with head injury, 1 with heart problems, 1 unknown), 5 pregnant women, 4 unaccompanied children under 15 years old, 3 women travelling alone, and 2 elderly persons above 60 years.

The data collection also aimed to identify the type(s) of medical problem(s) among the migrants staying outside TRCs, based on the observation made by the enumerators. This is to understand if there are unmet health needs, and when and if migrants in need had received assistance in the two weeks prior to the data collection. Of the 47 migrants who declared they needed medical assistance in the past two weeks, **28 per cent (13) said they could not receive it**, which is significantly lower than in the previous round, when the percentage was above 50 per cent.

### HEALTH ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

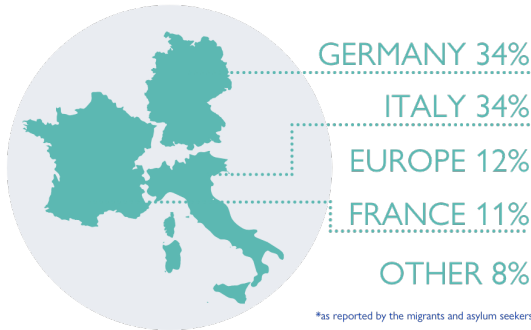


## INTENDED DESTINATIONS

Unlike Round 04, the two countries that emerged as the **main final destinations are Italy and Germany (both 34%)**, followed equally by France and Europe (13%).



INTENDED DESTINATIONS



## REFERRAL FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

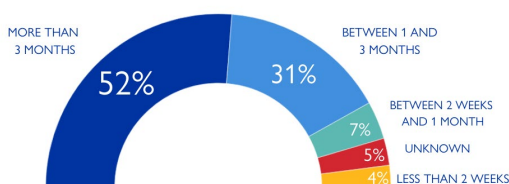
In round 05, 52 per cent of migrants declared that they have spent more than three months in BiH which represent a 5 per cent increase compared to round 04. At the same time, the percentage of migrants who reported they spent more than 90 nights out of reception in BiH has significantly increased from 66 to 80 per cent.

In addition, in Round 05 a change was made to the question asking migrants on the number of days spent without access to basic services. On average, migrants have spent 15 days without access to basic services (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Food and Non-food Items), over the last 30 days, being unable to access organized distribution by humanitarian actors in the country.

Nevertheless, only 29 (less than 3%) out of 1,009 migrants outside TRCs declared to be interested in being referred for accommodation in one of the centres.

Starting from Round 03, a new set of questions was also introduced on migrants' knowledge of alternative options offered by humanitarian actors in BiH. More than half (55%) of migrants observed declared to be aware of the option for assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) in their country of origin (CoO), offered by the IOM. Only 23 migrants stated that they would be interested in having information on the AVRR, as they were not aware of it previously. Also, only 5 migrants (less than 1% of the total) declared that they were actually interested in returning to their CoO through AVRR. Three migrants expressed an interest in staying in BiH, while an increasing number of migrants (458) would be interested in information on legal paths and grounds for staying in Europe, which represent 45 per cent of migrants interviewed.

LENGTH OF STAY



6. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the extended methodology available on IOM BiH webpage.

## METHODOLOGY<sup>6</sup>

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to capture and monitor displacement and population movements, also to disseminate information regularly and systematically. 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 and presence through the Western Balkans to Europe.

### Design of the data collection – Round 05

#### Geographical coverage

31 Municipalities in six Cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) in BiH, chosen by IOM for their well-known high presence of migrants. The total number of locations visited in Round 05 is in line with previous rounds, as micro locations have been considered, unlike previously, when very close locations were grouped together. 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 an official TRCs were excluded from the count.

#### Time frame

Round 05 was carried out on the 31 August 2021.

#### Enumerators

Ten teams for a total of 33 enumerators (23 M, 10 F), with language skills in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto, together with the SFA local staff, for a total of eleven inspectors (8M, 3F), and 8 legal guardian from SCI (2 M, 6 F) that facilitated access to some locations.

#### Data collection methods

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

#### Limitations

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:

- Geographical coverage was limited to a selected number of locations in a selected number of Cantons, due to:
  - the limited number of staff available to IOM - despite the engagement of SFA and SCI staff in the data collection exercise.
  - The existing restrictions in place to certain locations. This especially applies to the Una-Sana Canton.
- The SFA presence during 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.