

THE BALKAN ROUTE

The Western Balkan Route is one of the main migratory pathways into Europe. Since mid-2018, transit corridors from Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Serbia, as well as through Albania and Montenegro, via Bosnia and Herzegovina became one of the most travelled mixed migration routes in the Western Balkans, with approximately 81,155 people arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina since early 2018. 60% of these migrants rely on traffickers, while 40% walk alone, facing countless dangers.

UNHCR has estimated a total of 26,280 mixed movements in the Western Balkans in 2021. By the end of October 2021, it was estimated that 10,756 asylum seekers, refugees and other mixed movements were in the Region. Of these, around two hundred are unaccompanied children.

Migrants and refugees stuck along the Balkan Route are in desperate need of adequate shelter, warm clothes, nutritious food and medical assistance. Their already precarious situation has been further tested due to frigid temperatures and COVID-19 health emergency.

For further information:

Institutional Websites and NGOs

UNHCR ODI, Western Balkans - Refugees, asylum-seekers and other people in mixed movements <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/89820>

UNHCR Operational Portal, South Eastern Europe
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southeasterneurope>

IOM_ Migrant Presence Outside Temporary Reception Centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina
<https://reliefweb.int/report/bosnia-and-herzegovina/migrant-presence-outside-temporary-reception-centres-bosnia-and-3>

UNHCR: South Eastern Europe - Refugees, asylum-seekers and other people in mixed movements
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/86583>

Danish Refugees Council, Bosnia Herzegovina Country Facts
<https://drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/europe/bosnia-and-herzegovina/>

Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina raises alarm over plight of migrants in the country
<https://www.caritas.org/2021/01/plight-of-migrants-in-bosnia/>

Caritas Ambrosiana, Covid-19 and Balkan Route
<https://www.caritasambrosiana.it/internazionale/est-europa/covid-e-la-rotta-balcanica>

Online Newspapers and Periodicals

INFOMIGRANTS_ Migrants warned of dangers of landmines on Balkan route
<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/34243/migrants-warned-of-dangers-of-landmines-on-balkan-route>

VATICAN NEWS_ Pope shows solidarity with refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-07/pope-shows-solidarity-with-refugees-in-bosnia-herzegovina.html>

SANT'EGIDIO_ A new humanitarian mission in Bihać, to meet refugees of the "Balkan route"

<https://www.santegidio.org/pageID/30284/langID/en/itemID/43253/A-new-humanitarian-mission-of-Sant-Egidio-in-Biha%C4%87-to-meet-refugees-of-the-Balkan-route.html>

VATICAN NEWS_ Hundreds of migrants stranded in Bosnia in freezing weather

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-12/bosnia-migrants-border-croatia-camp-fire-relocation-humanitarian.html>

Mediterranean Hope launches new Evangelical Church Project with Ipsia-Acli in the Balkans

<https://www.ipsia-acli.it/it/notizie/item/527-al-via-la-collaborazione-con-la-fcei-per-lipa.html>

Caritas Ambrosiana_ Bosnia, canteen for Lipa migrants under construction

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/30256/bosnia-canteen-for-lipa-migrants-under-construction>

La Diocesi di Novara in aiuto dei seicento migranti bloccati in Bosnia

<https://www.lastampa.it/novara/2021/02/15/news/la-diocesi-di-novara-in-aiuto-dei-seicento-migranti-bloccati-in-bosnia-1.39905122>

Caritas sends firewood to help migrants stuck in Bosnian blizzard

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-01/caritas-sends-firewood-migrants-lipa-bosnia-blizzard.html>

La testimonianza di padre Stanko Perica, gesuita croato, direttore generale del Jrs Europa Sud Est

<https://www.agensir.it/europa/balceni/2021/02/18/rotta-balcenica-oltre-duecento-minori-viaggiano-soli-la-dura-vita-dei-bambini-migranti-in-attesa-del-game/>

Pope Francis sent a Donation for Migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://www.sarajevotimes.com/168848-2/>