

HIGHLIGHTS

Over 600 people remain at the Bruzgi logistics facility.



A woman washes clothing at the logistics centre © IOM 2021 / Olga Borzenkova



Kids' clothes drying near the logistics facility © IOM 2021 / Olga Borzenkova



ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR) has been provided to **113 migrants** in 2022 (as of 20 January).



COUNSELLING on AVRR is provided in-person at the logistics facility, Minsk National Airport, and the IOM Belarus office, as well as digitally through IOM Belarus's social media, e-mail and phone numbers.



HEALTH assistance has been provided through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), pre-embarkation checks (PEC) and COVID-19 tests.



HUMANITARIAN AID is delivered weekly to the logistics facility and as necessary to migrants at the hotel near Minsk National Airport. IOM delivered **650kg of food, 98L of juice, and various hygiene items** during the reporting period.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

IOM estimates that approximately **628 persons** (176 women, 166 men, and 286 children) are being accommodated at the logistics centre. The majority of persons are **Iraqis of Kurdish ancestry**, with a **small number of Syrians and Iranians** and a **few persons from African countries**.

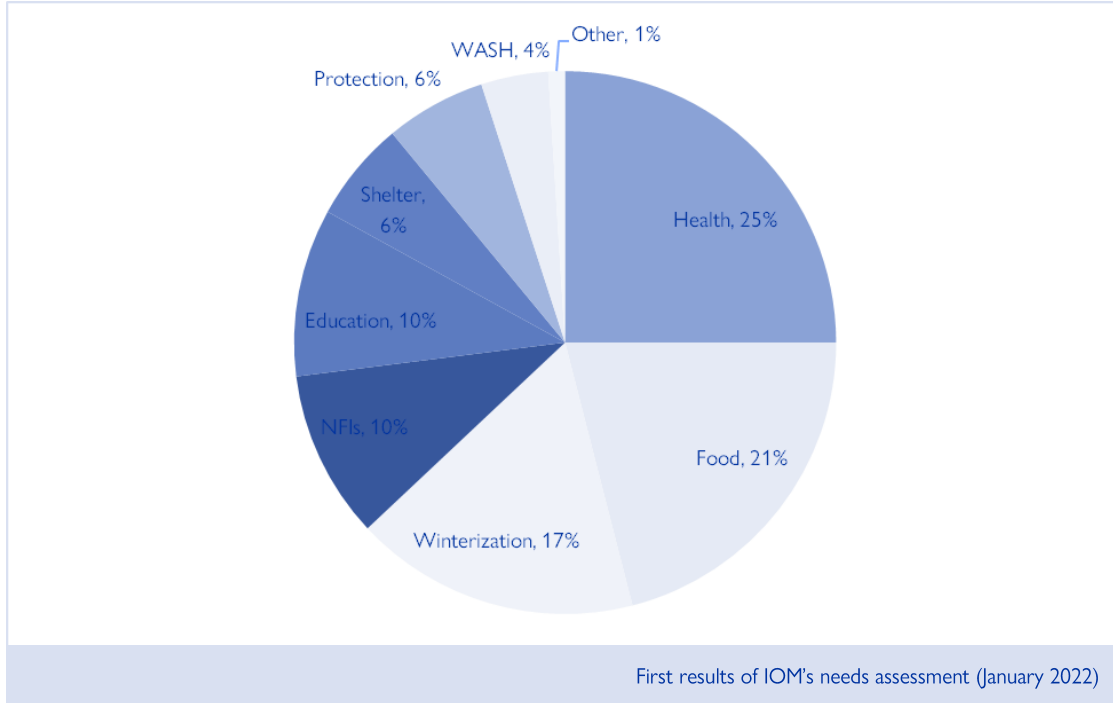
To receive accurate information about the migrants accommodated at the facility, a **new registration system**, which will be coordinated by the Belarusian Red Cross (BRC), is being put in place. On 14 January, IOM provided consultations to the BRC regarding the organization of the registration process. In the coming days, the registration system will be finalized and launched by the BRC.

CONTACTS

NEEDS OVERVIEW

IOM continues to carry out the **needs assessment** piloted at the beginning of January. During the reporting period, IOM developed two additional tools: an AVRR assessment tool and an IOM services tool. These tools are based on information collected through the Kobo data collection system and can be used as needed, rather than only for the ongoing assessment.

The assessment shows that **current priority needs are related to health, food and winterization.**



CURRENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Relevant stakeholders continue to coordinate their activities within the Refugee and Migrant Task Force. On 18 January, IOM chaired a weekly meeting of the Task Force. Information presented at the meeting by UN agencies, as well as BRC, is used for planning further activities in response to migrants' changing needs.

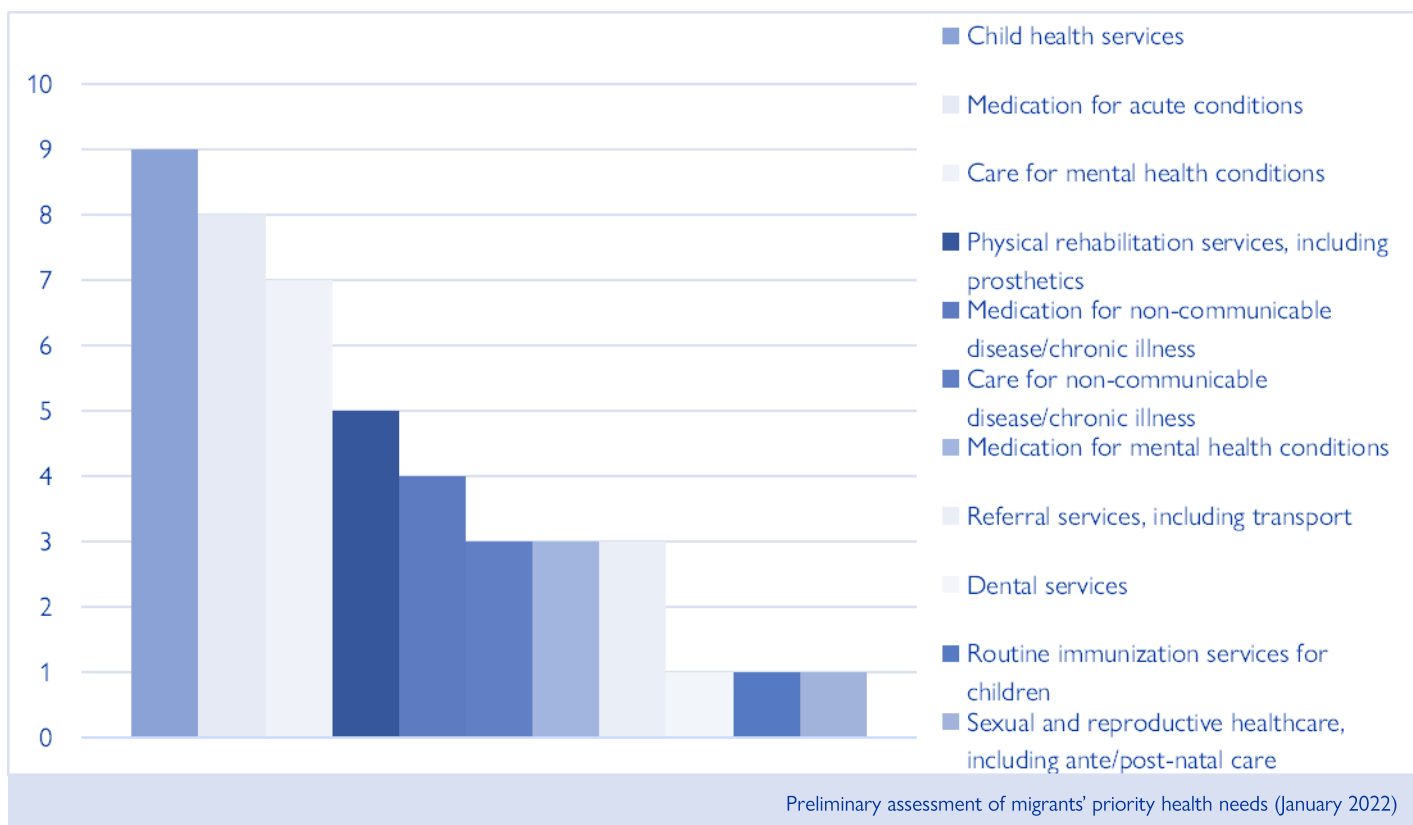


HEALTH ASSISTANCE

As health needs remain among the priority needs for migrants, IOM continues to implement relevant health programming and develop efficient channels for the delivery of services.

Currently, IOM provides health support to migrants in Minsk who were transported from the logistics facility and are now awaiting departure to their home countries through the AVRR programme.

The IOM doctor and nurse provided the required medical assistance to migrants. During the reporting period, they assisted **7 migrants** with such issues as diabetes mellitus type 1 (consultation, monitoring of blood sugar, supply of mono insulin), lice (specialized medical treatment), a leg fracture (follow-up) and leg and finger frostbite (follow-up). Other general medical conditions that are typical among migrants are colds and the flu.



Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) are regularly provided upon request. It is envisaged **to provide MHPSS at the logistics facility** as well. The premises for such purposes are ready and IOM is currently negotiating a contract with the subcontracted doctor. Once the contract is concluded, the doctor will start the provision of MHPSS and health assistance at the Bruzgi logistics centre.

Prior to departure through the AVRR programme, every AVRR beneficiary undergoes a pre-embarkation check (PEC), which includes COVID-19 PCR testing, a COVID-19 symptoms check, a physical examination of blood pressure, pulse, body temperature and saturation, lice and scabies testing, and the identification of any urgent medical interventions that could prevent the person from traveling. Between 14 and 20 January, **IOM provided PECs for 51 applicants**. A family of 11 was found not fit to travel due to positive COVID-19 tests among some of the family members.

All migrants departing under the AVRR programme from Minsk are equipped with travel kits to support adherence to COVID-19 health and travel requirements. These kits include medical masks, hand sanitizers, and tissues.

HUMANITARIAN AID

During IOM's visits to the Bruzgi logistics facility on 14 January and 19 January, the Organization delivered humanitarian aid consisting of food and non-food items (NFI): **420kg of fresh bread, 107kg of canned beef, 55kg of bananas, 68kg of apples, 98L of fruit juice for children, 600 toothbrushes, 500 packages of toothpaste, 100 tubes of cream for children, 75L of liquid soap, and 50kg of toilet soap.**

IOM provided **clothing** (trousers, jackets, , shoes) **to 11 migrants**, including children, accommodated at the hotel near Minsk National Airport and awaiting return through the AVRR programme.

All migrants at the hotel are provided with hot meals three times a day, totaling approximately **950 meals** during the reporting period.



IOM Belarus and BRC delivering food items and NFI © IOM 2021 / Hanna Kalichava

IOM continues to explore options to improve sheltering of stranded migrants. During the reporting period, meetings with management and staff of the logistics facility were held to discuss possible future avenues.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

IOM continues to offer the option of safe and dignified return to the home country via its AVRR programme.

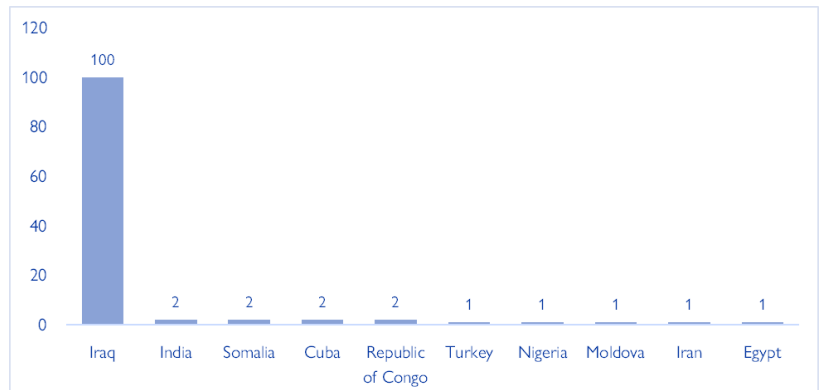
During the reporting period, **35 migrants benefited from the AVRR programme** and returned to their countries of origin with IOM assistance via commercial flights. Among them, 2 migrants were referred to IOM by the Belarusian law enforcement bodies. The others were registered by IOM at the logistics centre or were stranded in other parts of the country and approached IOM by themselves.

Now that IOM has a new project site in Grodno, which is close to the border, AVRR registration at the logistics facility happens daily. Between 14 and 20 January, **36 people were registered to voluntarily return home** and were transported to the hotel near Minsk National Airport.

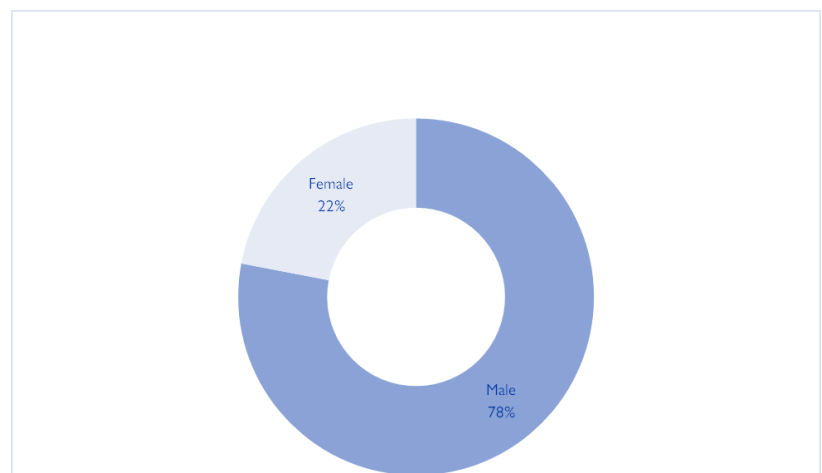
Currently, there are **28 migrants accommodated at the hotel** and awaiting departure.

In cases when AVRR beneficiaries do not have valid travel documents, IOM assists them through the Embassy of Iraq in Moscow with providing the documents for return. In the reporting period, such **documents were issued for 3 migrants**.

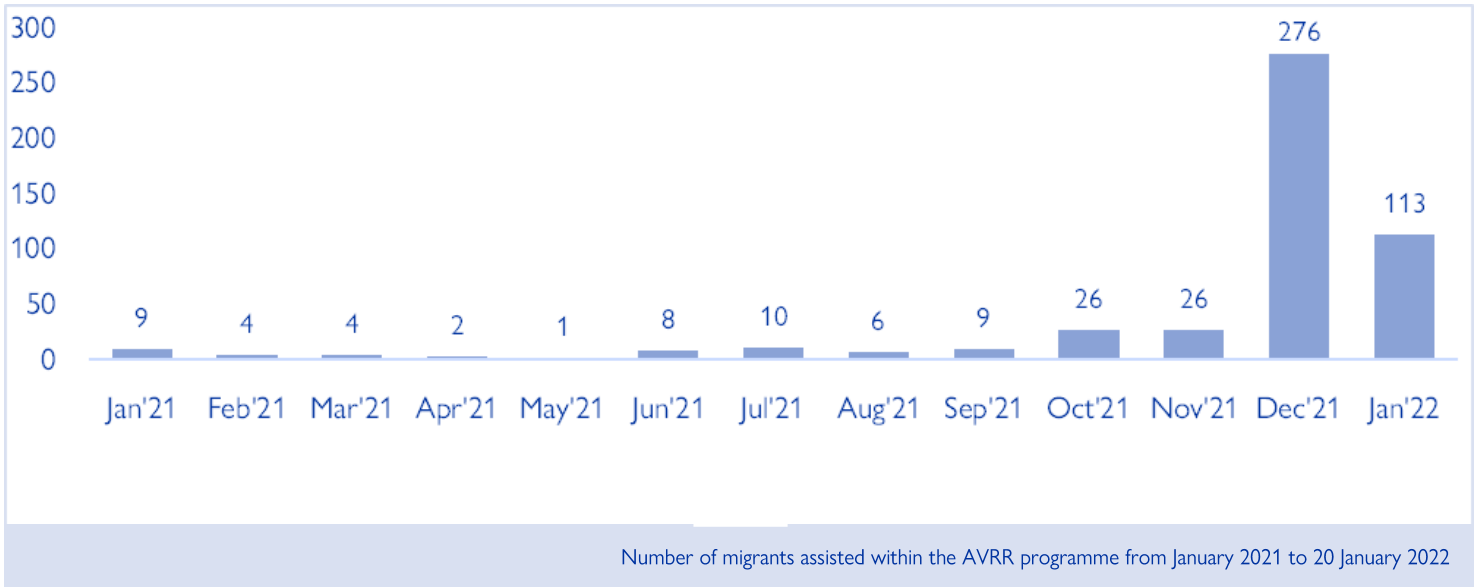
IOM continues to provide its AVRR services (outreach, counseling, and registration) at Minsk National Airport every day.



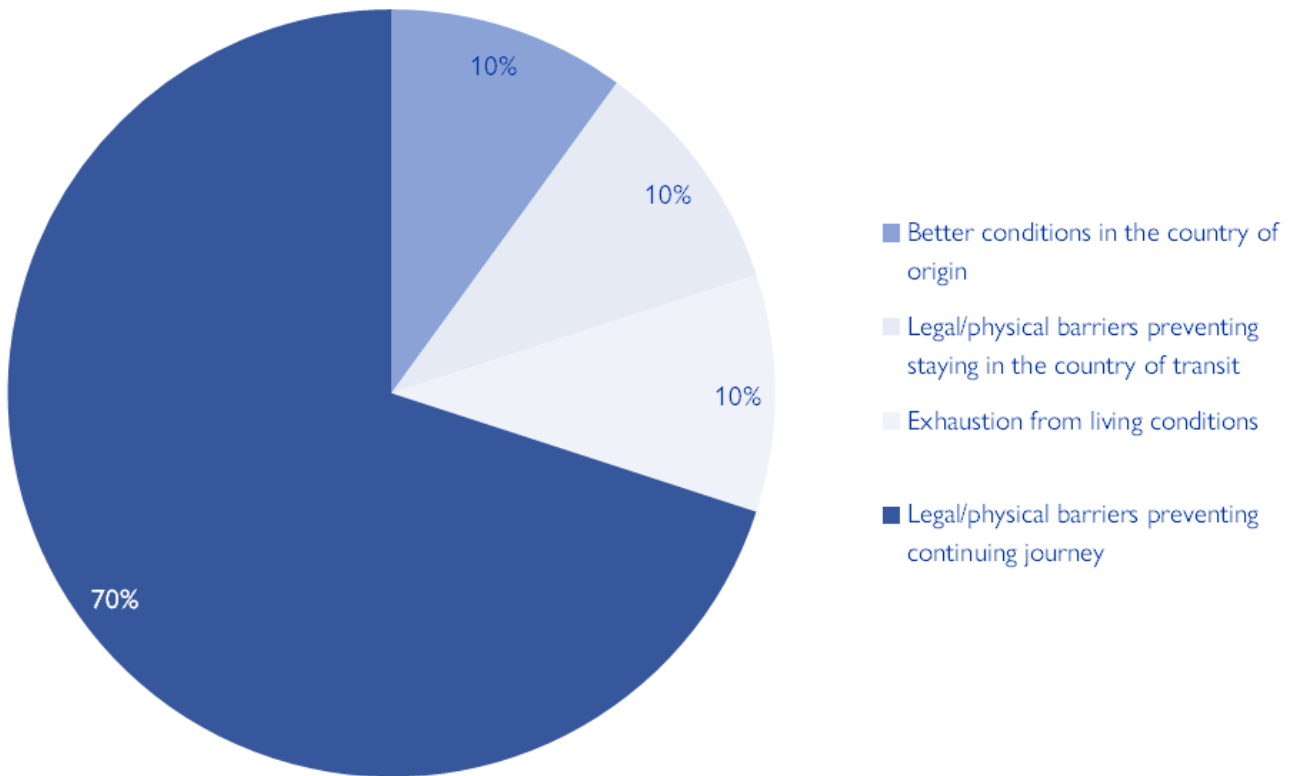
Nationalities of the AVRR beneficiaries in 2022 (as of 20 January)



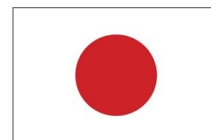
Gender of the AVRR beneficiaries in 2022 (as of 20 January)



According to the initial results of the interviews with the AVRR beneficiaries, the following reasons to consider returning were identified:



IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:



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