

## HIGHLIGHTS

**784 people** remain at the logistics facility

**175 people** benefited from Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) in 2022 as of 3 February

**1759kg of food, 1057L of drinks, and non-food items (NFI)** were distributed among migrants at the logistics facility



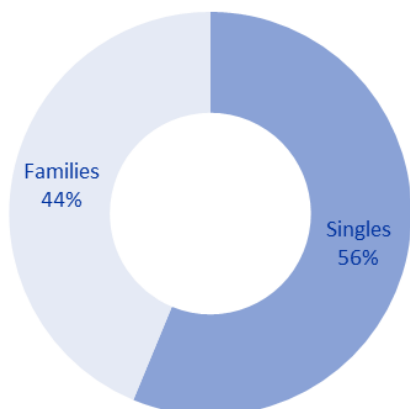
People accommodated at the Bruzgi logistics facility © IOM 2021 / Olga Borzenkova



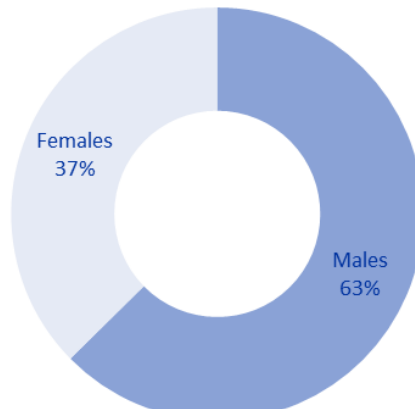
For the first time, the **registration of migrants** took place at the logistics facility and was **carried out by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and the Belarusian Red Cross (BRC)**. The registration process was fully voluntary, hence migrants who are hesitant or reluctant to register may not be included. Nevertheless, now more accurate data about the migrants accommodated at the logistics facility is available.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

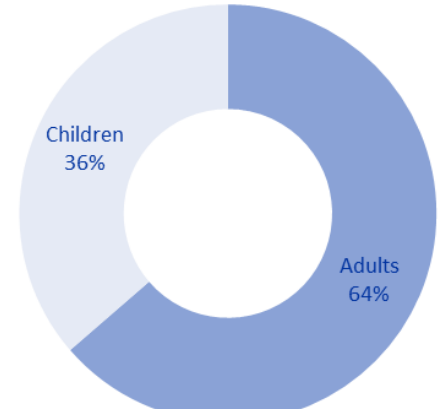
The registration showed that as of 24 January, there are 784 people in the logistics centre, including 189 singles and 147 families. In terms of gender distribution, there are 293 women and 491 men. Of the 784 migrants at the facility, 285 (approximately 36.4%) are children. **The majority of persons are Iraqis of Kurdish ancestry**, with a small number of Syrians and a few persons from other countries.



Share of single persons and families among migrants



Share of males and females among migrants

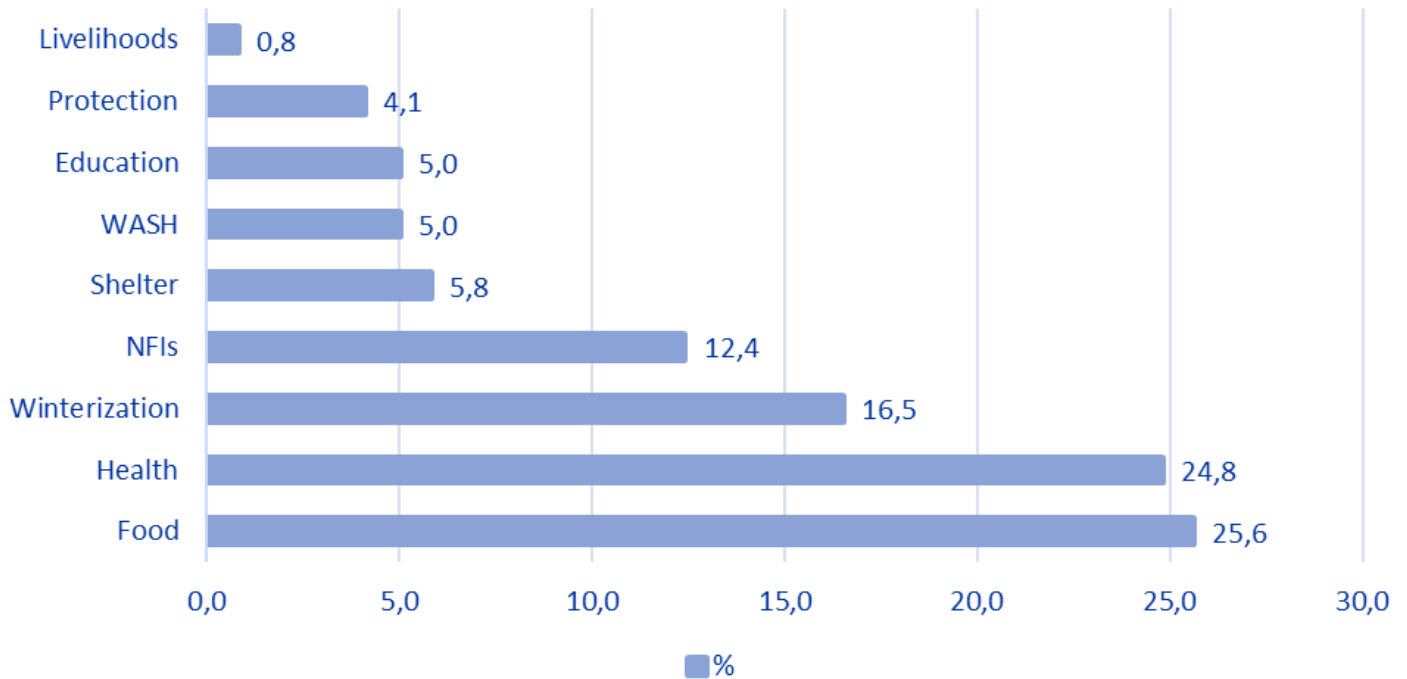


Share of adults and children among migrants

## CONTACTS

## NEEDS OVERVIEW

On 31 January, IOM updated its **needs assessment**, which was initiated at the beginning of January. The updated assessment shows that current top four priority needs are related to **food, health, winterization and non-food items (NFI)**. The most in demand food items are **bread, chicken and other meat**. Among NFIs, migrants mentioned **clothing, shoes, and batteries**. Winter shoes and warm clothing specifically are in demand due to the winter conditions.



Migrants' priority needs according to IOM's needs assessment

## CURRENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Relevant stakeholders continue to coordinate their activities within the **Refugee and Migrant Task Force** on a weekly basis. On 1 February, IOM chaired a weekly meeting of the Task Force, where results of the migrants' registration were presented. The most vital issues raised that require attention and further action are problems with sanitation, proper cleaning of the logistics centre, lack of laundry facilities, and the need for further sheltering solutions.

After negotiating with the owner of Bruzgi logistics centre, a **separate room was allocated for IOM staff** at the facility. The room is used by IOM Grodno staff for **AVRR purposes, general health examinations, pre-embarkation checks (PECs), and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**.



IOM doctor providing medical support at the logistics facility © IOM 2022 / Volha Chabrouskaya

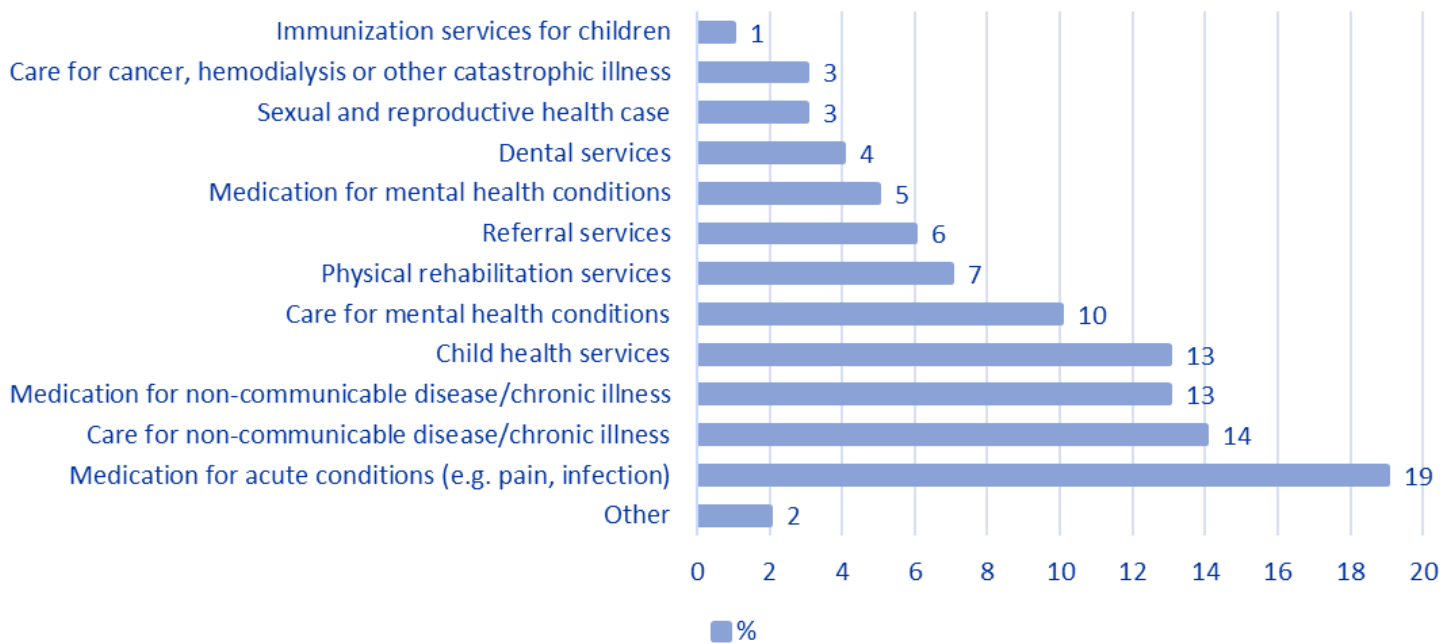


IOM doctor providing medical support at the logistics facility © IOM 2022 / Volha Chabrouskaya

## 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 provided primary health checks and referred **two Nigerian citizens to the hospital due to frostbite on their legs. One Iraqi citizen underwent a blood test, received a consultation with IOM Minsk's Panel Physician, and was found fit to travel.** Other general medical conditions that are typical among migrants are **colds and the flu.**



Priority health needs of migrants according to IOM's assessment

Mental health and psychosocial support services are regularly provided upon request. In addition, a **doctor was contracted to provide MHPSS and health assistance at the Bruzgi logistics facility.** He is currently undergoing training for MHPSS and pre-embarkation checks and will also be trained to provide general medical assistance.

A **referral system for migrants with serious medical conditions is being created** at the logistics centre. Last week, several medical facilities were selected to provide further analysis and tests for migrants. Four migrants have been referred to specialized medical establishments for additional examinations and tests.

Prior to departure through the AVRR programme, every AVRR beneficiary undergoes a 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 21 January and 3 February, **IOM provided PECs for 63 applicants.** One person was unable to fly due to a positive COVID-19 test.

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 26 and 28 January and 2 February, the Organization delivered humanitarian aid consisting of food and non-food items: **620kg of fresh bread, 125kg of canned beef, 235kg of bananas, 249kg of apples, 240kg of pasta, 240kg of rice, 50kg of powdered milk for babies, 529L of fruit juice for children, 528L of milk, 612 packs of toilet paper, and 306 packs of wet wipes.**

All migrants at the hotel, on average 50 people per week, are provided with hot meals three times a day, totaling approximately **2,100 meals** during the reporting period.



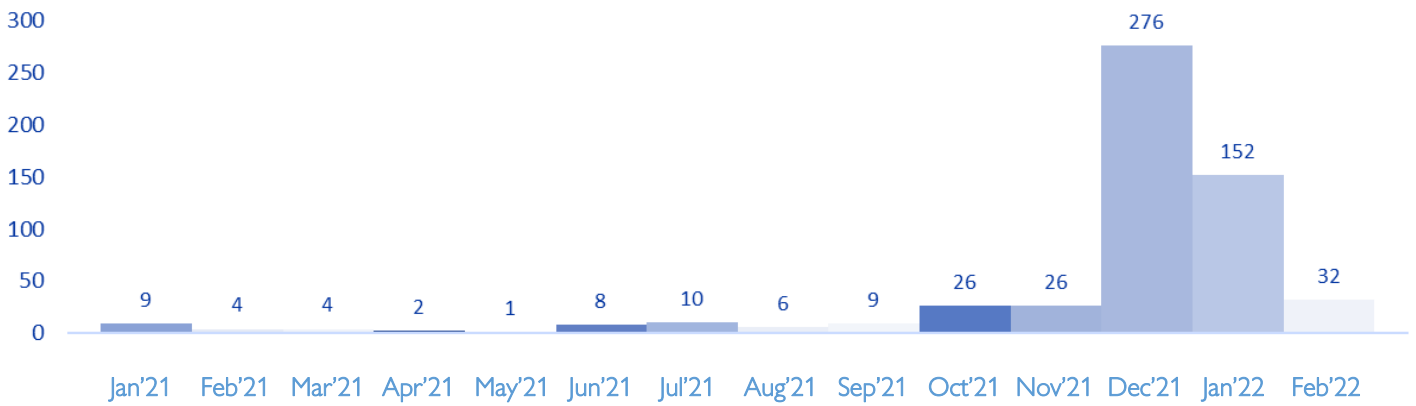
IOM Belarus and BRC delivering food items and NFIs © IOM 2022 / Volha Chabrouskaya



A line at the logistics facility to receive humanitarian aid © IOM 2022 / Volha Chabrouskaya

**ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)**

IOM continues to offer the option of safe and dignified return to migrants' home countries via its AVRR programme. As of 3 February, 175 persons benefited from the AVRR in 2022.



Number of migrants assisted within the AVRR programme from January 2021 to 3 February 2022

From 21 January to 3 February, **53 migrants benefited from the AVRR programme** and returned to their countries of origin with IOM assistance via commercial flights. Among them, 6 migrants were referred to IOM by the Belarusian law enforcement bodies and 2 were referred to IOM by a university (these are former students who had to abandon their studies due to the lack of funds). The others were registered by IOM at the logistics centre near the Belarusian-Polish border 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. In the reporting period, **15 people were registered to voluntarily return home and were transported directly from the logistics facility to the airport** to expedite the return procedure. IOM transported 4 people on 26 January and 11 people on 2 February. All of them returned to their country of origin (Iraq) on the same days.

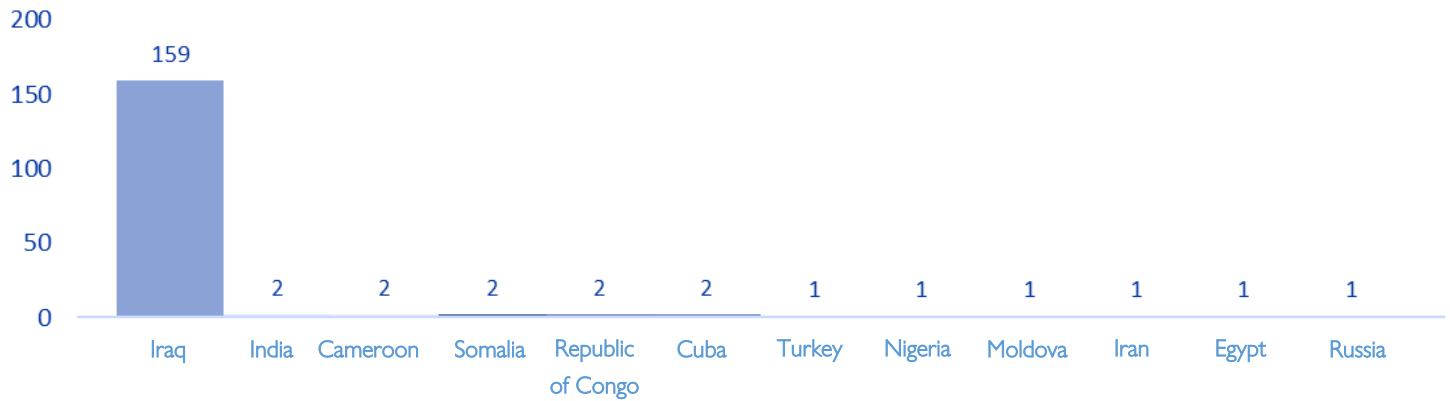


Migrants departing to their countries of origin within the AVRR programme © IOM 2021 / Olga Borzenkova

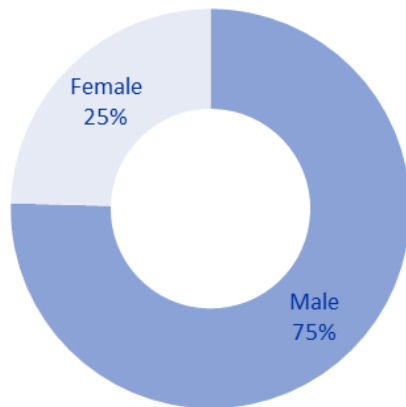
Currently, there are 27 migrants accommodated at the hotel and awaiting departure.

In cases when AVRR beneficiaries do not have valid travel documents, IOM requests them from the relevant embassies in Moscow, which then provide the documents for return. In the reporting period, such **documents were issued for 3 migrants**.

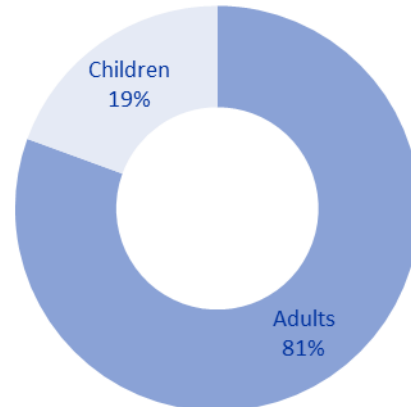
IOM continues to provide its AVRR services (outreach, counseling, and registration) at Minsk National Airport every day.



Nationalities of the AVRR beneficiaries in 2022 (as of 3 February)



Gender of the AVRR beneficiaries in 2022 (as of 3 February)



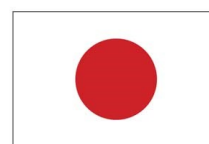
Number of adults and children among the AVRR beneficiaries in 2022 (as of 3 February)

### COOPERATION WITH NGOS

IOM continues to cooperate with two partner NGOs. The Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers (BMMW) provided AVRR counselling to 61 migrants in the reporting period.

BRC started tendering procedures for the procurement of food kits and hygiene kits for the migrants. Sports equipment and educational games for children were procured and will shortly be distributed among the migrants.

### IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:



From  
the People of Japan