

2,578 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

2,554 beds available in the reception facilities in BiH

1,009 estimated migrants and asylum-seekers outside of centres* in BiH

4 Temporary Reception Centres fully operational in BiH**

1,144 Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018 **142** in 2021



UNDCO RD FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA, GWI-YEOP SON, IOM BiH COM, LAURA LUNGAROTTI, HEAD OF UN RCO IN SARAJEVO VISITED THE TRC UŠIVAK © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 9 September, during her official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), UNDCO Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Gwi-Yeop Son, together with the IOM BiH Chief of Mission (CoM), Laura Lungarotti, and the Head of the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinators Office (RCO), Jago Salmon, visited the Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Ušivak. IOM CoM provided an update on migration in BiH, current challenges/perspective of IOM, information about TRC Ušivak and updates regarding the impacts of the ongoing situation in Afghanistan. The delegation visited several services provided in the centre including the Mother and Baby Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Unit and the Fashion corner.

On 7 September, IOM CoM visited Lipa site, jointly with Una-Sana Canton (USC) Prime Minister (PM) and their his advisor. The delegation visited the completed construction works on site. During her visit to USC, IOM CoM also met with Cazin Mayor to discuss the current migrant situation, IOM's response in the Canton, and the support provided to the local community.

On 8 September, the Heads of the elementary schools in Pazarić and Iliđža joined by Sarajevo Canton (SC) Special Commissioner/ Trustee for Migration situation, Alma Tabaković, and a representative from the SC Ministry of Education, visited TRC Ušivak to hold a meeting with the parents of school aged children to discuss the inclusion of children into the local school system.

*Estimated number recorded by IOM DTM on 31 August 2021

**Pending the official closure of TRC Sedra by the BiH Council of Ministers

AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 657 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in TRCs in BiH, including 439 men, 101 women, and 117 children, which represents 25.8 per cent of the migrants assisted in TRCs. According to the data collected through the August DTM exercise, approximately 469 migrants from Afghanistan are living outside of formal reception facilities. Between 1 January and 9 August 2021, it is estimated that over 592,000 people* were internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan. The impact this crisis may have in the Western Balkans is difficult to predict. IOM is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and along the Eastern Mediterranean Route (EMR) and will provide weekly updates on the presence of Afghans in BiH and the Western Balkans.

* (source: OCHA).

On 9 September, a vaccination and COVID-19 information session was held in TRC Blažuj thanks to the joint efforts of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), IOM, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), World Health Organization (WHO), and partners. The migrants accommodated in the centre were provided with up-to-date information and a Q&A session about the vaccination process, the importance of vaccination against COVID-19, and any potential side effects. These sessions are part of the ongoing efforts to ensure that the BiH's COVID-19 immunization roll-out includes migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in a fair and equitable manner.

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IOM RESPONSE

SHELTER AND

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In TRC Miral, 11 broken windows were patched up with nylon covers by IOM maintenance staff, while the electrical issues in a few containers (the community kitchen and the Container for Temporary Accommodation (CTA) were fixed. Moreover, four new LED panels with wooden board bases were installed in the three new rooms, namely the kitchen, the Camp Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) office, and the conference room. In TRC Ušivak, an awning on the NFI container to provide better conditions for migrants and asylum-seekers in queue during rainy days was constructed and installed by IOM maintenance staff.

Furthermore, heaters were installed in all accommodation units due to the season's low temperatures, especially during night. By the requests of migrants, IOM maintenance staff started the construction of new outdoor fireplaces made from recycled materials. In TRC Borići, IOM maintenance staff painted the walls of the dining area and in the preventive isolation to refresh the environment. To prevent unauthorised entry, IOM maintenance staff conducted repairs of the centre's fence in several spots. In TRC Blažuj, IOM maintenance staff poured concrete in the remaining potholes inside the centre. Furthermore, an unused security container was positioned next to the isolation area and connected to electricity to monitor migrants and asylum-seekers who reside there and often try to exit it.

of NFIs distributed: 10,861

of people assisted with NFIs: 1,091

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Multiple repairs were undertaken in order to ensure access and function and clean reception of WASH facilities in TRCs.

In TRC Miral, the community/outdoor kitchen was thoroughly cleaned by the centre's migrants, with the help of IOM maintenance staff.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM maintenance staff cleaned common areas such as the administrative building, kitchen and dining room, the Mother and Baby WASH Unit (MBWU), the area around the gate, the police container, all sanitary containers, and 17 free accommodation containers. Between 4 and 10 September, the wall whitening work was finalized on IOM's main building.

In TRC Blažuj, a fence was repaired on the new COVID-19 isolation area. Moreover, the grass was mowed around H13 accommodation hangar and the NFI warehouse. The repair of heaters in the accommodation units in view of the upcoming winter season was also conducted.

of people assisted with laundry services: 725

of people assisted by the IOM MBU: 160

FOOD AND NUTRITION



During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 29,802 meals in all TRCs in BiH, of which 444 specialized meals were served to 89 children for breakfast. IOM continued supporting World Vision's (WV) Mother and Baby Unit (MBU). During the past week, 72 juice boxes, 60 litres of milk, 64 fruit purees, and 5 baby milk substitutes were handed over for further distribution through the WV's MBU. In TRC Miral, starting on 5 September, groceries will be delivered every four days instead of every six days.

Lastly, the outreach mobile team distributed 38 loaves of bread, and 41 flatbreads, which resulted as a leftover from TRC Borići.

of meals distributed: 29,802



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Ušivak, the CCCM staff attended an operational meeting to discuss the inclusion of children from Ušivak in formal education. IOM, UNICEF and WV representatives jointly discussed on defining services and responsibilities within an agreed plan (eg. transport, food preparation, etc.) for the children who will attend the school. During the reporting period, WV and UNICEF followed-up with Ministry of Education (MoE) and SC Commissionaire and school directors on the expected school schedules and on transportation details (eg. the detailed itinerary) which will be shared with IOM to plan ahead.

Furthermore, the regular weekly CCCM meetings were held in TRCs Ušivak and Borići. In TRC Ušivak, the meeting was held in the presence of IOM, DRC, Medicine du Monde (MdM), the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women Initiative (BHWI) and Vaša Prava, where current updates were shared.

In TRC Borići, main points discussed were the observed occurrence of malnutrition cases in several children. In regards to this, partners will share action points in the coming reporting period. In TRC Blažuj, IOM, in collaboration with partner agencies, started preparation works for the upcoming winter season. On 3 September, an external company visited the centre to conduct an initial assessment, with special regards to the centre's heating system.



IOM COM VISITED LIPA JOINTLY WITH USC PRIME MINISTER AND THEIR ADVISOR © IOM 2021

OUTREACH

During the reporting period, the outreach mobile team provided information and assistance to 597 migrants identified outside of TRCs, in 27 locations in USC including abandoned houses, squats, and transit points. Migrants were identified in 22 locations, while 5 locations were found empty.

During the IOM-UNHCR joint activity, 27 migrants were profiled in outreach locations in the Velika Kladuša area. All migrants were single men, previously registered with the SFA, and accommodated in one of the reception facilities. Most of the migrants were from Pakistan (74.1%), followed by Afghanistan (22.2%) and India (3.7%). The majority of them declined accommodation or transportation to one of the TRCs. Additionally, 21 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were assisted by the outreach mobile team during the reporting period. Out of the identified migrants, 19 declined accommodation, while 2 accepted and were transported to Centre for Children and Youth (CCY) in Duje. Furthermore, 19 families with 74 members (including 35 accompanied children) were identified in outreach and transit locations in USC. Only eight families with 30 members (including 14 accompanied children) accepted accommodation and were therefore transported to TRC Borići. No single women were identified.

Two non-violent pushback cases were reported. A total of 31 migrants were involved, out of which 30 were single men, and one was UASC. Only five single men accepted accommodation, while the UASCs declined.

Out of 597 migrants identified, 117 migrants accepted accommodation and were transported to various reception facilities. The Outreach Mobile team provided protection services, conducting Psychological First Aid (PFA) to migrants identified in outreach locations and transit in USC. Consequently, a total of 333 migrants were provided with PFA.

Moreover, 14 referrals for transportation were received from partner agencies. Another 26 referrals were made by the IOM outreach team.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Frequent incidents due to consumption of alcohol, involving UASC, were reported during the last week in many in TRC Miral.

MAIN GAPS

In the short term, the top priority remains the need for additional funds to provide food and NFI to migrants living in TRCs and those sleeping outside of TRCs. Funds are also critically needed to cover for repairs and running costs of TRCs, particularly in Blažuj. As winter approaches, IOM and its partners are exploring ways to complement funding to ensure preparedness and response to emergencies, including in light of the ongoing Afghanistan crisis.

In the medium and long term, the main gaps to be addressed relate to the capacities of the authorities in the areas of registration, screening, and identification of vulnerable migrants, as well as management of reception facilities. Capacity-building remains a priority to progress towards the overarching goal of ensuring state ownership of the emergency response in BiH. Additionally, IOM works to support data systematization, and return and reintegration.



MEETING REGARDING INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS IN THE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN SARAJEVO CANTON IN TRC UŠIVAK © IOM 2021

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

IOM's AVRR teams are active in all open TRCs, including PC Lipa, and in outreach locations, to promote migrants' rights and provide information and advice to migrants interested in returning to their countries of origin (CoO). IOM and UNHCR continue to jointly disseminate information on AVRR, asylum procedures and assistance available in TRCs in locations in the USC. Between 4 and 10 September, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 100 migrants (37 in the centres and 63 in outside locations) and a total of 77 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, a total of six migrants returned to their CoO (India (4), Bangladesh (1), and Morocco (1)).

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