

**3,120** migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

**1,668** beds available in the reception facilities in BiH

**1,876** estimated migrants and asylum-seekers outside of centres\* in BiH

**4** Temporary Reception Centres fully operational in BiH\*\*

**1,126** Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018. **126** in 2021



IOM Miral, sports, board games and creative activities on the occasion of August 12 - International Youth Day with the message "Together we can make a better world" © IOM 2021

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 10 August, IOM and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) held a joint workshop to discuss support to the Ministry of Security (MoS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the operational plan for the functioning of the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa, scheduled to open in September 2021. Other United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in BiH also participated in the workshop.

To celebrate the International Youth Day, IOM organized an event for youth in Jablanica on 11 August, with attendance by H.E. the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Matthew Field, and IOM Chief of Mission in BiH, Laura Lungarotti. The IOM Sewing Corner Coordinator and a migrant participating in the activities showed the visitors some of the items developed through the sewing workshops, including reusable masks, scarfs, bags, and other textile items upcycled from donated clothes.

On 12 August, recreational activities were organized in the Temporary Reception Centre (TRC), including sports, board games and arts, to celebrate the International Youth Day under the theme "Together we can make a better world". Organized by IOM with the SFA, migrants and partners agencies the activities provided an occasion to discuss the experiences and challenges faced by young migrants in transit in BiH. At the end of the celebrations, sweets and refreshment were distributed.

During the reporting period, an impressive mural realized by the NGO Artolution in collaboration with Obojena Klapa, a street art collective from BiH, as well as migrants, was completed in TRC Blažuj. The mural is a new testament to the multitude of personal stories of migrants in BiH, with positive messages about life experiences, migration and hopes for the future.

To support the ongoing first solo exhibition of Selma Selman, a Romani artist from Bihac, IOM collected and donated metal debris and bed parts from TRC Blažuj for the purposes of Ms. Selman's work and art performance on the themes of recycling and repurposing. The exhibition is open until the 01 September at the BiH National Gallery in Sarajevo.

Due to the stable epidemiological situation in Una Sana Canton, the mandatory isolation period in the TRCs has been shortened to five days, with a rapid antigen test performed on the fifth day. In case of a negative result, the beneficiaries can integrate within the TRCs. Nonetheless, special emphasis on COVID-19 prevention remains in place with general use of masks and protective gloves for all staff, regular temperature checks and medical screenings for all migrants leaving the temporary reception centres.

\*Estimated number recorded by IOM DTM on 15 July 2021

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

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## IOM RESPONSE



TRC Ušivak, regular NFI distribution to Migrants in families © IOM 2021



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

As part of the IOM COVID-19 Project, IOM distributed social games and toys to the children in the isolation area in TRC Borići. IOM is also preparing for a renewal of its NFIs items, especially in prevision of the change of season. For instance, in TRC Miral, the NFI focal points have initiated the bi-annual warehouse inventory, during which all NFI and administrative papers are monitored, and procedures are verified and reviewed. Finally, the roll out of the new Smart Camp application is ongoing in all TRCs. The new app will help IOM record, track and manage all aspects of the assistance provided in the TRCs, from registration to identification and to access to services (e.g. meals, NFIs, WASH, medical consultations, transportation, etc.).

Furthermore, in each TRC, IOM conducted daily checks of accommodation containers to assess if repairs were needed. In TRC Blažuj, several site improvements were realized, including works on the power grid, concrete, roof and sewage systems, as well as inspections and repairs of lights, beds, doors, etc. In TRC Miral, renovation works of the outdoor community kitchen were completed, and it was opened again during this week, allowing the beneficiaries to prepare traditional meals. In TRC Ušivak, the maintenance team also worked on the construction of stairs for UNFPA's double container which will be delivered next week. In TRC Borići, the local company "Zanatstvo" installed six light reflectors that were transferred from TRC Bira. The new lights have been placed in common areas and will contribute to increase safety.

Work in TRC Lipa continues in preparation for the opening in September. Repairs of the sanitary containers, including electrical and water installations, electric installations throughout the camp and mounting of light poles is ongoing. A total of 233 accommodation containers are now set-up and 48 sanitary containers are connected to the water and sewage system. The laying of the foundations for the perimeter fences is ongoing and the work on the damaged plateaus continue. During the reporting period, the Bihać Waterworks Company also delivered more than 250 tons of portable water by tanker trucks.

# of NFIs distributed: 8,615

# of people assisted with NFIs: 1,213



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM and SFA continue to collaborate closely on all CCCM aspects, notably through the recruitment and training of new staff in preparation of the opening of the new TRC Lipa. IOM also coordinate closely with partners in all TRCs, notably to improve information sharing and effective provision of protection assistance to unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) and other vulnerable beneficiaries requiring mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS). New daily reports will now be produced and shared with IOM and SFA to help TRC staff monitor the well-being of vulnerable persons and take appropriate actions (e.g. coordinate with legal guardians) whenever required. The IOM CCCM team also conducted interviews with beneficiaries to identify new MHPSS activities during the weekly migrant feedback meeting on Wednesday.

In TRC Miral, UNICEF organized training for SCI staff on the provision of assistance to UASCs. During the weekly CCCM meeting, UNFPA also informed the partners that they are preparing to organize various trainings for the staff in the following period.

In TRC Ušivak, a meeting was held on Thursday with IOM and Council Representatives (Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan) to discuss improvements of the hygiene and maintenance in the TRC. Additionally, the pediatric infirmary ran by DRC has officially started to offer services to beneficiaries three times a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8 am to 2 pm. The dentist office will start on 09 August with the same working hours.

In TRC Borići, new migrants were elected as representatives/delegates for the weekly feedback meetings. The new group will have the mandate to represent their peers and voice the opinions, ideas and concerns of migrants, especially as the groups change quickly. Migrants in the centre were informed of the persons who would represent them during the weekly meetings, so they will know who to reach out if they have request or grievances.



## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting week, 151 women and children were reported to have benefited from the *Mother and Baby* WASH Unit (MBU) services (shower, bath, washing, and ironing).

# of people assisted with laundry services: 1,369

# of people assisted by the IOM MBU: 151



## FOOD AND NUTRITION

A total of 36,613 meals were distributed in all TRCs during the reporting period. In TRC Ušivak, IOM staff delivered food to vulnerable or disabled migrants and families directly to their accommodation units. IOM also supported World Vision through the distribution of baby juice, milk, fruit puree, and other NFI in the Mother and Baby unit.

**# of meals distributed: 36,613**

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

From 07 to 13 August, the IOM outreach team provided information and assistance to 801, migrants, who were identified at the Outreach locations and in transit. Out of this number, 652 received information and transport, while 149 were supported solely with transport to other centres or partner organizations. Four families were identified (17 members: 10 adults and 7 minors), as well as one UASC. Families were accommodated at TRC Borići but the UASCs declined accommodation in Reception Centre Duje.

Of the migrants met by the outreach team, 180 reported having returned from the border following pushbacks. In total, 11 groups were observed throughout the week, in the Bihać area, with the largest group consisting of 84 single males near Kulen Vakuf. A total of 10 migrants reported having been involved in a violent pushback, including six single men and one family of four members. The family accepted to be transported and accommodated in TRC Borići.

**# of food packages distributed: 0**

**# of hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 0**



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Incidents of fights among migrants were reported in TRC Miral. In one instance, the police were called following a stabbing where one migrant was injured by individuals who left the premise immediately. IOM is in the process of installing new CCTV cameras. During the reporting period, TRC Miral also received 20 new fire extinguishers which were placed in metal boxes on four different locations. Issues of access to the TRC and the need for additional CCTV have also been raised in TRC Ušivak.

## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

IOM's AVRR teams are active in all open TRCs, including Provisional Camp 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).

Between 07 and 13 August, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 812 migrants (188 in the centres and 624 in outside locations) and a total of 146 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Four migrants returned to their CoO (3 Pakistan, 1 India), bringing the total number of people returned to 126 in 2021.



IOM Outreach © IOM 2021

## 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 especially to those sleeping outside of reception facilities. Moreover, funds are also needed to cover the construction and running costs of the new TRC Lipa. As winter approaches, IOM and its partners are exploring ways to complement funding to ensure preparedness and response to emergencies, especially in light of the ongoing COVID-19 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 and screening of vulnerable migrants, management of reception facilities, and identification of durable options for migrants in transit. For this reason, capacity-building activities remain a priority to progress towards state ownership of the response. Funding is needed to support data collection and administrative systems, to ensure evidence-based policy decisions and targeted response.

### IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



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