

**5** Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) in operation in BiH\*

**2,300** migrants and asylum seekers accommodated in TRCs in BiH

**2,205** beds available in TRCs in BiH

**1,101** estimated migrants and asylum-seekers out of TRCs in BiH\*\*

**1,173** returns from BiH since 2018. **183** in 2021.



THE NEW TRC LIPA IN UNA-SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 19 November, the ceremony for the opening of the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa was held in the presence of the Minister of Security of BiH, Selmo Cikotić, the Director of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), Slobodan Ujić, the Prime Minister of the Una Sana Canton, Mustafa Ružnić, the Mayor of Bihać, Šuhret Fazlić, the IOM Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans and Chief of Mission in BiH, Laura Lungarotti, and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and EU Special Representative, Johann Sattler. Managed by the SFA with technical assistance by IOM and other important humanitarian partners, the new TRC will provide humanitarian assistance and protection to up to 1,500 migrants and asylum seekers, including single adults, families and unaccompanied children. The relocation of 251 persons previously assisted in the provisional camp took place on 13 November, through the joint efforts of SFA, IOM, DRC, Red Cross Bihać and SOS Bihać.

The opening of this new Lipa centre is a critical step towards a more State-owned migration response.

On 16 November, representatives of the Diplomatic Office of the Kingdom of Belgium in Sarajevo, the Embassy of the Netherlands in BiH, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain, the Embassy of the Netherlands in North Macedonia, the Embassy of the Netherlands in Croatia, alongside the IOM Chief of Mission in BiH and the SFA, visited TRCs Borići and Lipa. In addition to learning about the assistance provided in the Centres, the delegates met with several partners and key stakeholders - including youth representatives - actively engaged in their local communities to discuss the importance of partnerships and community support in the migration response in BiH.

## AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 664 migrants from Afghanistan in reception facilities operated by IOM and other organizations in BiH, representing 35 percent of all migrants assisted\*. Furthermore, most of migrants in locations outside of TRCs identified during the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise are Afghan nationals. Between 1 January and 19 November, over 675,000 persons have been internally displaced in Afghanistan (OCHA). The humanitarian situation remains dire, and the impact that this crisis may have on migration flows in the Western Balkans is difficult to predict. IOM closely monitors the situation in Afghanistan and along the Eastern Mediterranean Route. So far, there has been no significant change in the number and nationality composition of migrants in the Western Balkans.

\*Excluding migrants in TRC Lipa, as data was not available for the current week.

\*\*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)



OFFICIALS TOUR THE FACILITIES IN THE NEW MIGRANT CENTRE WHICH OFFERS ACCOMMODATION, MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER SERVICES FOR 1,500 PEOPLE © IOM 2021

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## IOM RESPONSE

### COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

IOM continues to support the SFA and its partners to improve camp management and camp coordination (CCCM) in all TRCs.

In TRC Miral, the IOM staff responsible for the registration and accommodation sector organize daily briefings with IOM Team Leaders, food focal points and security staff to facilitate information -sharing and service provision.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM supported DRC's medical team to conduct 214 COVID-19 screenings of newly arrived migrants, with participation of the IOM Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) focal point in order to identify vulnerable persons. I

In TRC Borići, a family of six members was welcomed in the Centre following referrals from the IOM Protection Team in TRC Miral. Additionally, two SFA Team Leaders from TRC Lipa joined the IOM CCCM Team during a two-day learning activity on the procedures and coordination of family-oriented services and activities, in preparation for the arrival of families and unaccompanied children in the new TRC Lipa.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM and SFA coordinated with the legal guardians for the transportation of three minors from Jajce. IOM also organized a meeting with partners including UNFPA, Bosnia and Herzegovina Women initiative (BHWI), Medicine du Monde (MDM) and World Vision (WV), during which art work was selected for the new T-shirts prints, in preparation for upcoming activities to mark the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence".



REPRESENTATIVES OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICES VISITING TRC BORIĆI WITH THE IOM CHIEF OF MISSION IN BIH AND THE SFA © IOM 2021

### PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

During the reporting period, the IOM MPHSS team referred 42 individual cases to partner organizations, and provided 2,138 individual services including information on available accommodation, medical assistance, transport assistance, distribution of NFI (raincoats), specialized assistance to persons with disabilities using sign language, screening of newcomers and returnees in TRCs and monitoring of group activities in the TRCs. In TRC Blažuj, the weekly Council meeting held with community representatives and IOM CCCM and support staff focused on the

duties and responsibilities of community representatives, as well as problems with internet connection. Solutions were discussed by the group. In TRC Miral, the community representatives meeting was held with participation of the WASH focal point. Based on the feedback received by beneficiaries, the CCCM team and the security assistant will conduct more frequent checks at nights to make migrants feel safer. Lastly, in TRC Ušivak, IOM and community representatives discussed ways to actively involve residents in the maintenance of the installations.

**# of persons referred to partner organizations by IOM: 42**

**# of protection/MHPSS services provided by IOM; 2,138**

### SHELTER, - WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM maintenance and cleaning team are inspecting all TRCs installations daily, with two cleanings per day, weekly disinfection, disinfestation and derating (DDD) measures, and several repairs on sanitary installations in the Centres. In TRC Blažuj, IOM established an official pre-registration zone, where migrants are accommodated when they arrive late at night. Due to new issues with bedbugs, a meticulous disinfection was carried out by the IOM maintenance staff. Moreover, the installation of the disinfection tunnel was completed during the reporting period. In TRC Miral, the IOM maintenance staff started assigning beds more rigorously to improve the monitoring facilities. In TRC Borići, IOM maintenance staff installed additional lights and repaired several heaters. Finally, in TRC Ušivak, IOM prepared the foundations for a discretion wall and awning that will be installed in front of the sanitary containers. Moreover, 92 persons (47 mothers and 45 children) accessed serviced provided through the Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU).

**# of persons sheltered: 2,300**

**# of persons assisted with laundry services: 1,235**

**# of persons assisted by the IOM MBWU: 92**



AN OFFICIAL COMFORTABLE PRE-REGISTRATION ZONE FOR MIGRANTS IN TRC BLAŽUJ © IOM 2021

## FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In TRC Ušivak, thanks to support from Pomozi.ba, 500 bottles of ice-tea were distributed to migrants during dinner and 1,500 fruit juices were distributed to TRC Blažuj. In TRC Blažuj, to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of lights, a small group of celebrants prepared traditional dishes with the support of Pomozi.ba and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Women Initiative (BHWI), which donated food. In TRC Borići, IOM continued with the distribution of bottles of water as the Institute of Public Health advisory to boil water remains in place for the population of the city of Bihać. Moreover, a survey on the quality of flat bread was carried and 77 of the 81 respondents indicated they were satisfied with the quality of the bread delivered. In TRC Miral, to facilitate food distribution, the Red Cross delivered 142 additional serving trays for the dining room. IOM, in coordination with the SFA and the Red Cross, organized the joint event "Delicious and healthy day" with the aim of socializing migrants and sharing experiences to improve eating habits especially on cold days.

# of meals distributed: 25,581

# of NFIs distributed: 5,431

# of people assisted with NFIs: 933

## ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

During the week, the IOM Outreach Mobile team provided 2, 256 services to migrants outside of reception facilities, including 1,140 information sessions, 15 Psychological First Aid sessions, transportation and food. A total of 125 migrants accepted accommodation and were transported to TRCs, including 60 to Borići, 10 to Ušivak and 54 to TRC Lipa. The IOM outreach team visits outreach locations daily, to increase information and access to services, with the aim of reducing the number of migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings. A total of 113 migrants comprised of 17 families (64 people including 30 small children), 9 UASCs and 40 adult men from Afghanistan are still present in the location known as VK7.

# of persons transported to TRCs: 125

# of individual services provided to migrants out of TRCs: 2,256

## RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

IOM and UNHCR jointly disseminate information on return and asylum in all TRCs as well as in outreach locations. Between 13 and 19 November, the IOM return and reintegration team reached a total of 277 migrants, including 25 in TRCs and 252 in other locations. A total of 45 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, three migrants were assisted to return to their country of origin, including one to Pakistan and two to Morocco.



IOM RETURN AND REINTEGRATION TEAM PROVIDING INFORMATION AND BROCHURES TO MIGRANTS IN TRC BLAZUJ © IOM 2021

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

In TRC Miral, due to the increasing number of thefts occurring at night, IOM strengthened control practices within the centre. In TRC Lipa, as of 13 November, the security sector is fully under the responsibility and management of the SFA. In preparation for the opening of the new TRC Lipa, all safety devices as fire extinguishers, electrical devices, first aid boxes, hydrant hoses were inspected.

## 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. 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 potential effects of the 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.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



Austrian  
Development  
Agency

German Federal Agency  
for Technical Relief

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OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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