

**2,801** migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

**2,331** beds available in the reception facilities in BiH

**1,101** estimated migrants and asylum-seekers outside of centres in BiH\*

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

**1,161** Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018, **171** in 2021



VISIT OF THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR KARIN KELLER-SUTTER TO TRC UŠIVAK. © IOM 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 21 October, during her official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the Swiss Federal Councilor Karin Keller-Sutter visited temporary reception centre (TRC) Ušivak, together with His Excellency (H.E.) the Ambassador of Switzerland in BiH, Daniel Hunn, and associates. Representatives of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), Hadžići Mayor, Hamdo Ejubović, and IOM provided a snapshot of the centre's services and trends, including an overview of the current situation in all TRCs in BiH. The Swiss funds will support the establishment of the new TRC Lipa, in the Una-Sana Canton (USC), especially in terms of completing the electrical works and running costs.

During the reporting period, the number of families observed in Velika Kladusa went up to 130, with many children under the age of three. A survey conducted by IOM among 301 respondents out of transit facilities locations indicates that the main reason for refusing accommodation in the TRCs is that the migrants intend to leave the country imminently. This was the main reason cited for 76 per cent of respondents transiting with family members (138), and 99 per cent of male respondents travelling alone (163). Other reasons included lack of privacy in TRCs, and distance of TRCs from the border area. To better respond to the needs of the migrants staying outside of TRCs, IOM increased its presence and visibility out of transit facilities locations and deployed one permanent team as of 17 October.

On 18 October, following the opening of two Fashion Corners in TRCs Ušivak and Blažuj in the Sarajevo Canton (SC), the first Fashion Corner in the USC was also officially opened in TRC Miral. Migrants will have the opportunity to use the equipped space to

## AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 892 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in reception facilities in BiH, including those not managed by IOM, representing 33 per cent of the total migrants assisted in the centre. Between 1 January and 16 October 2021, it is estimated that 677,832 persons have been internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan. (source: OCHA).

The impact that this crisis may have on the Western Balkans (WB) is difficult to predict. IOM is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and along the Eastern Mediterranean Route (EMR). Currently, there has been no significant change in the nationality composition of migrants inside and outside official reception centres. It is interesting to note that, based on the first Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise on migrants' presence (MP) conducted at WB level (Albania, BiH, Kosovo\*\*\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia - excluding Serbia) on 28 September, most of the migrants observed residing outside of formal reception facilities were from Afghanistan, 99 per cent (564) of which were observed in Bosnia and Herzegovina while less than 1 per cent (10) were observed in North Macedonia. Of the 214 migrant children identified, 160 were from Afghanistan, representing 75 per cent of the total number of migrant children out-of-reception in the sub-region.

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

learn and improve their sewing skills by contributing to the development of the "Made in BiH by people on the move" brand, under the guidance of the IOM Fashion Corner Coordinator.

\* Preliminary number recorded by IOM DTM on 28 September 2021

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

## CONTACTS

## IOM RESPONSE

 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

There are currently 2,801 migrants accommodated in official reception facilities in BiH.

In PC/TRC Lipa, 500 duvets were delivered from the central warehouse on several occasions during the reporting period. IOM and SFA are coordinating final works such as setting up protective fences along the north side of the centre, repairing the old gates for use, and excavating the power supply trench. Furthermore, a damaged water pipe was repaired near the substation Brljuga.

In TRC Blažuj, the plateau at the entrance of the camp was asphalted for the set-up of small tents to welcome newly arrived migrants. Three electric generators were purchased in preparation for increased electricity needs. During the week, three mass distributions were organized for hygienic packages and clothes. Standard welcome package distributions happened daily and 250 bedlinens were distributed.

In TRC Borići, the maintenance staff did all repairs to improve the quality of stay of the migrants in the centre. IOM provided 617 bottles of water to beneficiaries, following a temporary problem with water quality announced by the Health Institute. Moreover, a distribution of winter jackets and shoes was organized with a total of 127 jackets and 132 winter shoes distributed to 141 migrants.

In TRC Miral, the new installed heating system was inspected and all needed repairs were done.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM maintenance staff installed two new beds and one heater in accommodation units and set up a space for Red Cross's Firs Aid team, ensuring readiness for delivery of containers to support their work. The NFI distribution was organized for new arrivals. A local textile company donated 1,000-square meters of fabric to support activities in IOM Fashion Corner.

**# of NFIs distributed: 8,388**

**# of people assisted with NFIs: 1,044**

 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting period, IOM assisted a total of 866 persons with WASH services in BiH.

In TRC Miral, 66 water pipes and flushers for the toilet tanks were repaired in sanitary containers.

In TRC Ušivak, the facility was entirely cleaned during the week. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) medical facilities and the dentist facilities were also cleaned regularly by IOM maintenance staff. The laundry service is operational, and benefitted a total of 114 persons, including 56 mothers and 58 children.

With regards to the protection of migrants' health and in compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures, regular cleaning and disinfection activities are being carried out in all centres.

**# of people assisted with laundry services: 866**

**# of people assisted by the IOM MBWU: 114**

 FOOD AND NUTRITION

During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 31,122 meals in all TRCs in BiH.

In Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa, IOM started monitoring food distribution to facilitate catering in the centre, ensuring the quality of the food delivered by service providers, and the hygienic conditions for both the preparation and the storage of food. SFA supports the process and ensures a presence during the meals.

In TRC Ušivak, 257 meals were provided for children attending school, and 444 breakfasts were served to 151 children. IOM also supported the activities of the World Vision Mother and Baby Unit (MBU). During the past week, 36 juice boxes, 24 litres of milk, 32 fruit purees, and 5 baby milk supplements were distributed to residents.

**# of meals distributed: 30,492**

 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Borići, several visits were organized for partners and donors, including EUFOR Romania, the Centre of Competence of Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHM), IOM Field Security Officer, Area Security Coordinator, the Evangelical Relief Agency (ERA) and Caritas. Humanitarian organizations supported the CCCM by donating two types of packages: hygienic (toiletries) and snack to adults and children and second-hand clothes for women and children.

In TRC Miral, IOM met with SFA and community representatives to discuss SFA's participation in Feedback Meetings, where it was agreed that SFA representatives would start attending to enhance feedback mechanisms and strengthen coordination.

In TRC Lipa, the work on the main high voltage transmission line has started. In anticipation of the next steps, the SFA, IOM and Red Cross Bihać held a meeting to plan food distribution in the new Centre. IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams held a meeting with the IOM Centre Coordination manager to discuss protection assistance. IOM Security Unit held a meeting with SFA to strengthen collaboration on safety and security. Several visits were organized for ERA, their partner organization "Convoy of hope", as well as representatives of the German Red Cross, the Red Cross of Federation BiH, BiH Armed Forces, and Elektodistribucija.



THE WORK ON THE MAIN HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE HAS STARTED IN TRC LIPA.  
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On 22 October, the migrants involved in the Fashion Corner activities of TRC Miral visited TRC Blažuj for an information exchange session with those involved in the same activities, in order to provide fruitful and pleasant opportunities for mutual exchange. The visit is organized on the occasion of the next United Nations (UN) day to be held at the National Museum of BiH on 23 October, organized by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (UN RCO), where IOM will showcase the products created in the Fashion corner.

**OUTREACH**

The IOM Outreach Mobile team provided 3,293 services to migrants identified outside of reception facilities, including 1,442 information sessions, 1,442 Psychological First Aid sessions, transportation services to 157 migrants, 288 food items, and 78 NFIs. A total of 127 migrants accepted accommodation and were transported to various reception facilities, out of which 41 to TRC Borići, 9 to CCY Duje, 76 to PC Lipa, and 1 to TRC Miral. During the joint activity on Communication with Communities, UNHCR and IOM profiled 194 migrants in outreach locations in the Velika Kladuša area, including 29 families with children, 6 unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), and 60 adult men, all of whom were from Afghanistan. All were registered with the SFA.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

In TRC Blažuj, minor incidents were recorded during the reporting period. All interventions were conducted according to the instructions of the Security Assistant.

In TRC Miral, one beneficiary was accompanied by the police to give a statement. The SFA is informed about the case.

In TRC Ušivak, a security assistant visits the center daily as he is operating in both Sarajevo canton centers Ušivak and Blažuj, and is available on call.



IOM OUTREACH TEAMS IN UNA-SANA CANTON © 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. IOM and UNHCR continue to jointly disseminate information on AVRR, asylum procedures and assistance available in TRCs in locations in the USC. Between 16 and 22 October, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 335 migrants (27 in the centres and 308 in outside locations) and a total of 52 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, three migrants returned to their country of origin (all from Pakistan).



IOM PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO MIGRANTS WISHING TO BE ACCOMMODATED TO TRCS FROM OUTREACH LOCATIONS © 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 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 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 :**

