

2,635 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

2,424 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**

1,154 Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018 **152** in 2021



HE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR JOHANNA STRÖMQUIST VISITED UNA-SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 20 September, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), IOM and DRC representatives held a meeting with the federal and cantonal health care institutions regarding the vaccination of migrants in Sarajevo Canton. The following day, the representatives of the federal and cantonal health care institutions visited Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) Ušivak and Blažuj to discuss the technical requirements for the upcoming vaccination rollout in these centres with DRC and IOM. So far, in Una-Sana Canton (USC), 157 migrants have been vaccinated.

On 22 and 23 September, H.E. the Ambassador of Sweden to BiH, Johanna Strömquist, joined by the IOM Chief of Mission in BiH, Laura Lungarotti, and SFA representative visited the new TRC Lipa, Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa, and TRC Borići. In TRC Borići, the visit focused on services and activities available for families with children and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

On the International Day of Peace on 21 September, celebrations in TRC Miral included participation of representatives of the local community. Representatives of the Vrnograč Elementary School and representatives of Polje, Bosanska Bojna, and Glinica local communities joined migrants in celebrating peace. IOM Miral team in coordination with SFA, migrants, and humanitarian partners organised a series of social events for the occasion.

*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 554 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in TRCs in BiH, including 378 men, 53 women, and 123 children, which represents 24.1 per cent of the migrants assisted in TRCs. According to the data collected through the August Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise, approximately 469 migrants from Afghanistan are living outside of formal reception facilities. Between 1 January and 22 September 2021, it is estimated that over 634,800 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)



MEETING IN TRCS BLAŽUJ AND UŠIVAK FOR THE UPCOMING VACCINATION ROLLOUT IN SARAJEVO CANTON © IOM 2021

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IOM RESPONSE

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

There are currently 2,635 migrants accommodated in official reception facilities in BiH.

In TRC Borići, the fence around the symptomatic area container was replaced to prevent unauthorised entries. A metal rack for bicycles was made so that migrants can use it to park their bicycles. A food distribution desk, office chairs, a wooden table set, a speaker, grass trimmer, lawn mower, shower curtains, walkie-talkies, and other materials from TRC Sedra, arrived from IOM's Central Warehouse to TRC Borići. Two mobile whiteboards with stands as part of a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) project were also delivered from the warehouse.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM maintenance staff constructed a wooden ramp for the kitchen stairs, to ease transport of kitchen carts and garbage bins. IOM continued its work on the heating and electrical systems, also fixing and isolating windows and doors.

In TRC Miral, IOM cleaned and prepared 32 housing containers, installing new locks and getting them ready for future use. The fence was repaired on several places, and a total of 19 beds were repaired. A list of all damaged windows and doors was updated to guide repairs.

of NFIs distributed: 7,995

of people assisted with NFIs: 763

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting period, IOM assisted a total of 791 persons with WASH services in BiH.

In TRC Ušivak, 96 persons, out of which 45 mothers and 51 children (23 males and 28 females), benefitted from the Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU). To upgrade the water supply for the kitchen, maintenance staff dug a trench to expand the water pipe so it could amplify the water pressure.

In TRC Miral, all accommodation containers were cleaned and disinfected. A rain gutter was fixed on the roof above the UASC zone and all the eco toilets were emptied.

of people assisted with laundry services: 791

of people assisted by the IOM MBU: 96

FOOD AND NUTRITION

During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 24,109 meals in all TRCs in BiH.

In TRC Blažuj, six staff members from “Pomozi.ba” and 10 helpers supported meals distribution.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM assisted 14 persons with vulnerable or disabled members receive assistance and food directly in their accommodation unit. Moreover, 252 kids' meals were served to children for breakfast. IOM continues supporting MBWU with the distribution of juices, milk, and fruit purees.

In TRC Miral, a 10-day menu was developed and displayed in the dining room, with both text and photographs of all meals being prepared by the Red Cross. This will be helpful and informative for migrants.

of meals distributed: 24,109

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Blažuj, the IOM Centre Manager (CM) and the Deputy Centre Manager (DCM) held an information meeting with Caritas and EUFOR representatives. In addition, the IOM MHPSS and Protection Coordinator, along with protection colleagues from the IOM mission in Greece, toured the centre to discuss protection assistance practices in BiH, and coordination with the CM and DCM.

In TRC Ušivak, a meeting was held on 15 September, with participation from IOM, UNHCR, BHWI, Vasa Prava, UNFPA, DRC, World Vision, UNICEF, Drop in the Ocean and Caritas representatives. Based on recommendations from IOM, Drop in the Ocean installed a software in computers to ensure content safety for children. Vasa Prava informed the group that their hours of operation would be extended. UNFPA informed partners about an increased number of LGBTI groups of migrants in the centre.

In TRC Borići, owing to bad weather conditions, many families who were residing outside of reception facilities accepted accommodation, and over 100 people were admitted upon SFA's approval. To adhere to the mandatory seven-day isolation period, the second floor was again converted into a preventive isolation zone.

After the mandatory medical examination, 131 migrants, newcomers or returnees, were received in the preventive zones. Also, due to the high turnover of migrants in the centre, only one of the seven elected representatives was present during the Council meeting. Partners therefore suggested ways to solve the situation and the election of new representatives. Lastly, another mine-awareness session was organized by IOM for nine participants, all from Iran.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY IN TRC MIRAL © IOM 2021

OUTREACH

During the week, the IOM Outreach Mobile team provided information and assistance to 1,114 migrants identified outside of TRCs, including 580 migrants from Afghanistan and 478 from Pakistan.

A total of 1,948 services were provided, including systematic information sessions, as well as Psychological First Aid (515), transportation services (200) and food items (111), mainly sweets and bottles of water. Furthermore, the team distributed 27 loaves of bread, donated by TRC Borići. Two hundred migrants met during the outreach visits accepted accommodation and were transported to various reception facilities, such as CCY Duje (6), TRC Borići (71) and PC Lipa (123).

During the joint activity with the UNHCR, the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) teams profiled 24 migrants in the Velika Kladuša area, including two families with seven members and 17 adult men. Only eight migrants were registered with the SFA and accommodated in one of the reception facilities.

During the reporting period, two pushbacks were reported, involving 18 Pakistani migrants, all of whom were adult men. Migrants accepted accommodation in PC Lipa, and the team coordinated the necessary referrals.

Four coordination meetings were held by the IOM Outreach Team, including a meeting of the CCCM, team leaders and MHPSS/Protection focal points, to revise existing daily reporting format in order to better reflect outreach activities; a meeting with Red Cross and UNICEF to discuss operational outreach issues; a meeting with DRC and CWS to discuss operational outreach issues; and an all-staff meeting to discuss the standard operational procedures, referral tracking, vulnerability screening and coordination of outreach activities.



IOM OUTREACH AND AVRR STAFF COUNSELLING IN UNA-SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

SAFETY AND SECURITY

No major security incident was reported during the week.

In all TRCs, inspection work continue to ensure safety of electrical

and heating installations.



IOM OUTREACH STAFF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN UNA-SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

In TRC Miral, twenty new fire extinguishers have been purchased and placed in strategic points of the centre.

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 18 and 24 September, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 574 migrants (20 in the centres and 554 in outside locations) and a total of 86 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, a total of five migrants returned to their CoO (Iraq (1), Iran (2) and Pakistan (2)).

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.

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