

**2,929** migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

**2,203** 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\*\*

**1,156** Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018, **166** in 2021



THE AMBASSADOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN BIH, IVANA HLAVSOVÁ AND THE IOM BIH CHIEF OF MISSION, LAURA LUNGAROTTI VISITED TRC UŠIVAK. © IOM 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

During 4 and 5 October, finalization of *Standard Operating Procedures for Outreach – Setting up of Referral Pathways* Workshop took place in Sarajevo, organized by the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Ministry of Security (MoS), Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and IOM. The workshop further defined the procedures, roles and responsibilities of the partners involved in providing support to migrants outside official reception.

On 5 October, Her Excellency (HE) the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in BiH, Ivana Hlavsová, the IOM BiH Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti visited Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Ušivak, near Hadžići, Canton Sarajevo. The visit was held in the frame of the 12-month project "Strengthen Evidence Based Migration Response through Enhanced Data Collection on Migrants Presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Capacitate the State to Process Returns of Migrants to Their Countries of Origin", funded by the Czech Republic Ministry of Interior's Aid in Place Programme.

On 4 October, thanks to the commitment of the Cantonal Ministry of Education, and the Sarajevo Canton government, 62 migrant children accommodated in TRC Ušivak started school in two elementary schools in the Canton with support from UNICEF and World Vision. IOM is supporting on a daily basis with transportation and school meals.

On 7 and 8 October, Andrea Schmid, Head of Unit Civil Society International and Humanitarian Aid of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and IOM BiH Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti visited the new TRC Lipa site, Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa as well as TRC Borići. In the new TRC Lipa, the SFA

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

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

## AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 702 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in TRCs in BiH, which represent 30 per cent of migrants assisted in TRCs. Between 1 January and 30 October 2021, it is estimated that 665,182 persons are internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan (source: OCHA).

The impact this crisis may have in 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 are no significant changes in the nationality composition of observed migrants inside and outside official reception. It is interesting to note that based on the first Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) migrants' presence (MP) exercise conducted at WB level (Albania, BiH, Kosovo\*\*\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia - excluding Serbia) on 28 September, most of the migrants observed residing outside 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) in North Macedonia. Of the 214 migrants 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)

representative together with IOM provided an overall overview of the situation including the TRCs' plan and services that will be available to migrants in the centre after its opening.

## CONTACTS

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## IOM RESPONSE

 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

There are currently 2,929 migrants accommodated in official reception facilities in BiH.

In TRC Blažuj, the IOM technical team built a wheelchair ramp on the entrance of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) building. General cleaning of the new isolation unit was completed, and many windows were repaired in the unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) zone. In TRC Borići, with low temperatures approaching, a total of 26 electric heaters were distributed to beneficiaries throughout the centre, including the isolation zones. The damaged fence was also repaired to prevent unauthorised entries. In TRC Miral, a total of 31 beds were repaired during the week, and six residential containers were renovated. In TRC Ušivak, the IOM maintenance team started setting up two containers for the centre's operational needs, one for the multifunctional team of the Center for Social Welfare who work with UASCs, and the other for the IOM outreach team.

In TRC Lipa, IOM delivered a total of 160 beds to the SFA. The construction works on the kitchen and the dining area having been finalized, a meeting was held with THW and engineers to agree upon the terms of use and procurement of kitchen equipment. Work continues with connection of the generator to the pump station, digging of trenches for new walls on plateaus, preparation of canals, concrete work on platforms and gates, installation of pillars and setting up of fences, management of construction materials, and cleaning. Finally, in PC Lipa, IOM handed over 16 heaters to the SFA. The heaters were tested and were all found to be functional.

**# of NFIs distributed: 8,627**

**# of people assisted with NFIs: 846**

 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting period, IOM assisted a total of 846 persons with WASH services in BiH.

In TRC Ušivak, the Mother and Baby WASH Unit (MBWU) provided regular services for 110 persons, out of which 68 mothers and 43 children (26 males and 17 females). Thoroughly cleaning of the MBWU has been conducted.

In TRC Borići, besides regular activities such as waste disposal, cleaning and disinfection of the indoor and outdoor areas, the IOM maintenance and cleaning team ensured the daily inspection and repairs of WASH facilities, unclogging drains and repairing hydrant hoses. In TRC Miral, a total of 67 water pipes/flushers for the toilet tanks have been repaired in sanitary containers.

**# of people assisted with laundry services: 634**

**# of people assisted by the IOM MBWU: 110**

 FOOD AND NUTRITION

During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 26,313 meals in all TRCs in BiH.

In TRC Borići, IOM installed a counter with a protective glass to better protect staff and residents during food distribution. Surveys on the quality of the bread was carried in TRC Borići and TRC Miral. Out of 179 respondents, 17 indicated that the quality of the bread was not satisfying. The IOM food and nutrition assistant will advise on this question with support of the provider. In TRC Ušivak, the IOM team delivered food directly to seven residents with mobility or health issues. Moreover, 444 kid's meals were distributed to 124 children for breakfast. IOM also continued supporting World Vision MBWU through the distribution of juice boxes, milk, and fruit purees.

**# of meals distributed: 26,313**

 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Blažuj, the IOM CCCM team continued to reorganize services and accommodation units, ensuring that all units and areas of the centre can be thoroughly cleaned and refreshed before welcoming new arrivals.

In TRC Borići, during the weekly CCCM meeting, three main discussion points were raised: elections of the new Community Council members, meal preparation for children attending school, and challenges related to managing lists of daily activities as requested by partner organisations.

In TRC Miral, IOM and SFA and IOM continued to coordinate closely on all CCCM aspects. All referrals of new persons arriving in the centre went through the SFA and were answered in a timely manner, with important issues resolved upon arrivals. The IOM CCCM team also worked to reorganize accommodation areas in order to provide separate spaces for families and UASCs admitted following referrals by the SFA.

In TRC Ušivak, all partners coordinated their efforts to ensure a successful start of school for children in the TRC. IOM together with Pomozi.ba developed a 5-day menu for school lunch boxes, which includes fresh fruit, pastry, sandwich, sweets and juices. This will be delivered daily to children before departure.

In TRC Lipa, a meeting was held to develop standard operational procedures (SOPs) for child protection, with representatives of CSW, CWS, UNICEF, Save the children and IOM CCCM.

Overall, IOM also continued to oversee feedback and complaint mechanisms, and facilitate regular community representatives' meetings to inform, exchange and engage residents on common problems and solutions.



IN TRC UŠIVAK, 62 CHILDREN STARTED SCHOOL WITH TRANSPORT AND FOOD ASSISTANCE BY IOM. © IOM 2021

## OUTREACH

The IOM Outreach Mobile team provided information and services to 1,032 migrants outside of TRCs, mostly from Pakistan (535) and Afghanistan (405). While the majority was single adult males (710), 66 families (283 individuals including 150 accompanied children) and 39 UASCs—were also assisted. All received assistance from IOM, including information, Psychological First Aid, water, bread and other non-food items (hygiene items, shoes, jackets). A total of 236 migrants accepted accommodation and were transported to reception facilities in the Una Sana Canton (USC).

During the reporting period, seven incidences of pushback were reported in the USC area. A total of 170 migrants were involved, all of whom were adult men from Pakistan (77%), Afghanistan (18%) and Bangladesh (5%). Out of the total, 120 accepted accommodation and were transported to PC Lipa.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Four security guards started completing shifts in the new TRC Lipa. No incident was reported.

In TRC Borići, IOM is working with a company to repair the CCTV recording system, and install additional cameras to widen the outdoor surveillance and reduce the number of unauthorized entries. The equipment installed was procured following the closure of TRC Bira.

In TRCs Blažuj, Borići and Miral, IOM Protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) teams organized a training entitled: “Human rights and protection tailored for all security guards”. In total, 44 security guards have participated in the training.



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 (CoO). IOM and UNHCR continue to jointly disseminate information on AVRR, asylum procedures and assistance available in TRCs in locations in the USC. Between 2 and 8 October, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 335 migrants (37 in the centres and 298 in outside locations) and a total of 56 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, six migrants returned to their CoO (3 to Morocco, 2 to Iraq, and 1 to Turkey).



FINALIZATION OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR OUTREACH – SETTING UP OF REFERRAL PATHWAYS WORKSHOP WAS HELD IN SARAJEVO © 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 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.

### IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



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