

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

**2,272** migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in TRCs in BiH

**2,098** 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 FIRST LUNCH SERVED IN TRC LIPA IN UNA-SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 23 November the first meeting of the working group for the development of the “Transition Plan for Migrants Health Care Services Provision in Bosnia and Herzegovina” was held in Sarajevo. The Ministry of Security (MoS), in collaboration with IOM and with the support of the Delegation of the European Union (EUD) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), initiated a dialogue with the main stakeholders to develop the transition plan to enable the creation of a sustainable health system for migrants in the country, while ensuring the full transfer of responsibilities from current implementers to local institutions, this being one of the top priorities in BiH.



THE FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETING ON TRANSITION PLAN FOR MIGRANTS HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVISION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA © IOM 2021

## COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

IOM continues to work closely with the SFA and partners to improve coordination of assistance in TRCs.

In TRC Miral, IOM coordinated a meeting with representatives from SFA, Save the Children (SCI), UNICEF, and the Centre for Social Welfare (CSW) on the transformation of the UASC zone in TRC Miral, and the transfer of those currently accommodated in TRC Lipa. As a main result of the meeting, all parties agreed that UASCs accommodated in TRC Miral will be transferred to TRC Lipa within a maximum of 24 hours, and that four legal guardians will be available at any time.

In TRC Blažuj, as the number of minors in the centre increases daily, the partners agreed to designate a specific area for UASCs in the pre-registration building, until their transfer to TRC Ušivak is arranged. In addition, all partners agreed to prepare an informative flyer to be shared with migrants as soon as they arrived at the TRC's gate.

In TRC Lipa, the representative of Telecoms Sans Frontiers (TSF) visited the centre and met with the SFA Camp Manager and the IOM Coordinator to discuss the possibility of providing free internet access to migrants hosted there.

## AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 612 migrants from Afghanistan in reception facilities operated by IOM and other organizations in BiH, representing 35 per cent 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 21 November, over 667,900 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 (WB) 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 WB.

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

\*\* Latest data recorder by IOM DTM on 28 September 2021

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## IOM RESPONSE

### PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

During the reporting period, IOM's Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MPHSS) team referred 31 individual cases to partner organizations, and provided 1,968 individual services including information on available accommodation, medical assistance, transport assistance, translation, distribution of non-food items (NFI) including 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 Miral, IOM staff with the participation of migrants, together with security assistants and security guards, continue to monitor the accommodation more often, especially at night. In TRC Ušivak, IOM informed Community representatives of the new menu to receive their feedback. They expressed their satisfaction with the food, however any further changes will be discussed in the coming meetings, with the participation of other nationalities. In TRC Borići, a community meeting was held with the aim of selecting the Afghan representative at the community representative council.

**# of persons referred to partner organizations by IOM: 31**

**# of protection/MHPSS services provided by IOM; 1,968**



COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING IN TRC BLAŽUJ © IOM 2021

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

In TRC Miral, IOM maintenance staff conducted all necessary repairs, including the installation of new LED panels, reflectors and replacement of old mattresses.

In TRC Blažuj, to protect minors temporarily residing in the centre, a protective barrier was set-up in the pre-registration area to allow their safe accommodation.

In TRC Borići, two cleaning staff were sent to TRC Lipa to support during the centre's opening activities.

In TRC Lipa, works on the road and terrain in front of the centre's entrance have been completed. In addition, the

disinfection and cleaning of all containers has been completed during the reporting week.

In TRC Ušivak, the works on the new warehouse premises were finalised, and the IOM maintenance staff started to move the goods from the old warehouse to the new one. In addition, 66 persons (34 mothers and 32 children) had access to the services provided by the Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU).

**# of persons sheltered: 2,272**

**# of persons assisted with laundry services: 1,128**

**# of persons assisted by the IOM MBWU: 66**



THE IOM OUTREACH TEAM PROVIDES PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT TO MIGRANTS © IOM 2021

### FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In TRC Borići, IOM continued to provide hot tea during regular food distribution due to the lack of new instructions on the water quality in the area.

In TRC Miral, the bulletin board with menu descriptions was moved a place more visible to migrants.

In TRC Ušivak, with the support of Pomozi.ba., 15 daily menus were provided for school children. Finally, a mass distribution of raincoats, backpacks, and pocket trousers was organized for a total of 224 migrants.

In TRC Lipa, IOM donated four medical containers to religious communities, one for the needs of the Orthodox Church near Lipa and three for the needs of the Islamic community in Bihac.

**# of meals distributed: 22,380**

**# of NFIs distributed: 5,199**

**# of people assisted with NFIs: 615**

## ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF RECEPTION FACILITIES

During the week, the IOM outreach mobile team provided 1,672 services to migrants outside of reception facilities, including 889 information sessions, transportation, and food.

A total of 96 migrants accepted accommodation and were transported to TRCs, including 41 to Borići, 2 to Miral and 53 to Lipa. The IOM outreach team visits outreach locations daily, to increase information and access to services, with the aim to reduce the number of migrants camping or squatting in abandoned buildings.

# of persons transported to TRCs: 96

# of individual services provided to migrants out of TRCs: 1,672



THE IOM OUTREACH TEAM PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS IN THE FIELD, UNA-SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

## RETURN & ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

IOM and UNHCR jointly disseminate information on return and asylum in all TRCs as well as in outreach locations. Between 20 and 26 November, IOM's return and

reintegration team reached a total of 220 migrants, including 86 in TRCs and 134 in other locations. A total of 39 in-depth counselling sessions were held. No returnees were reported for this week.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

In TRC Blažuj, to prevent unauthorized access, IOM maintenance staff regularly conduct repairs of fences where necessary. The installation of a new video surveillance is currently being studied to improve security in the TRC, in particular around the isolation area.

In TRC Usivak, IOM maintenance staff welded metal beams for the installation of new cameras and started building a road for the police container, to ensure better access from the main road.

In TRC Lipa, four police officers from the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH are present in the centre 24/7, to monitor the entrances and exits to the centre and conduct overall daily activities and regular patrols.



REGULAR IOM ACTIVITIES IN TRC MIRAL, UNA-SANA CANTON © 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. 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 :

