

**3,509** migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

**1,623** beds available in the reception facilities in BiH

**1,876** estimated migrants and asylum-seekers outside of centres\* in BiH

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

**1,120** Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018, of which **120** in 2021



IOM BiH Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti, speaking at the conference on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons supported by USAID/INL in BiH © IOM 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 28 July, IOM and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) held a joint workshop, organized in the Una-Sana Canton (USC), to discuss support to the Ministry of Security (MoS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) for increased migration governance capacities, and to define the operational plan for the functioning of the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa, which will soon be opened. Other United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in BiH also participated in the workshop.

On 30 July, the Head of the European Union Delegation in BiH and the European Union Special Representative in BiH, Johann Sattler, held a donation ceremony for the delivery of 63 vehicles and specialized equipment to the BiH Border Police and to the State Investigation Agency and Protection (SIPA) under the project "EU Support to Migration and Border Management in BiH". The event was attended by IOM BiH Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti, together with the Minister of Security of BiH, the Director of the Border Police of BiH, and the Advisor to the Director for Cooperation, Logistics and Training of the SIPA.

\*Estimated number recorded by IOM DTM on 15 July 2021

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

On the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the MoS of BiH and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons in BiH, in collaboration with IOM, held a press conference to discuss BiH's progress in countering human trafficking over the past year, underlining the need for continued cooperation and highlighting the areas that most urgently need improvement, including better identification of the victims within the mixed migration context that characterizes BiH and the Western Balkans. This event was made possible with the support of the United States Agency for International Development Mission in BiH (USAID BiH) and the United States Department of State/International Bureau for Narcotics and Law Enforcement in BiH (INL).

IOM continues its efforts to promote assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) options for migrants in BiH. Therefore, in the reporting week, a virtual counselling session was conducted between the IOM AVRR team in the Western Balkans (WB) and the one in Pakistan, in the presence of migrants residing in the TRCs of the WB, to allow them to better understand the general repatriation process and reintegration, as well as to allow AVRR consultants to exchange relevant information on employment, training, business opportunities, school systems, etc. for migrants who are considering the option of return. The intention is to expand remote counselling activities to bridge the gap between pre-departure and post-arrival of migrants along the WB route.

## CONTACTS

Chief of Mission,  
Laura Lungarotti [lungarotti@iom.int](mailto:lungarotti@iom.int)

Information Management and Reporting  
Programme Support Unit [BIH\\_PSU@iom.int](mailto:BIH_PSU@iom.int)

+387 (0)61 097 731  
[www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina](http://www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina)

## IOM RESPONSE



Vehicles handover by the EU to the BiH Border Police and SIPA © IOM 2021


 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM continues to prepare for the imminent opening of the new TRC Lipa, scheduled for September 2021. Due to the heavy rains at the beginning of the week, the plateaus - intended for the containers' placement - have been damaged and the land has subsided in some areas. The companies that took care of these have been called and will organize the necessary repairs in the next reporting period. Additionally, 31 containers (18 accommodation and 13 sanitary containers) were transported from Bira to Lipa. This shipment brings the total number of containers transferred to Lipa currently to 329 (252 from Bira, 53 from ETC Lipa, 18 from Sedra and 6 from a local company).

In TRC Borići, IOM repaired the CCCM container's roof, on which a makeshift canopy was installed to prevent water infiltration from the roof. In addition, to improve night-time visibility, the reflector lights at the main gates were replaced, while the fence around the dorm area was repaired in several places.

In TRC Blažuj, the foundations were prepared for the new Red Cross container, and the metal doors for the entrance to the Caritas facility are under construction (hinges will have to be installed). Moreover, the electricity was reconnected to the current Red Cross container and the air conditioning was installed. Lastly, IOM installed metal bars on the windows of the World Vision (WV) container.

In TRC Miral, three sewing machines were purchased to open a Sewing Corner. The space has already been set up, thanks to a tent donated by the USC Red Cross; however, the activities have yet to start, and will begin as soon as the standard operating procedures for its use are established, based on the practices of the already set up and functioning Sewing Corner of Sarajevo Canton.

**# of NFIs distributed: 11,140**

**# of people assisted with NFIs: 1,117**


 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Borići, IOM and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) screened all children in the centre for lice. A total of 110 children were examined, 53 of whom tested positive and received adequate care.

In TRC Ušivak, at the community representatives meeting, the CCCM team shared the proposal to provide a community kitchen for migrants. The representatives welcomed the proposal.

As per the previous report, a meeting was held on 23 July between IOM, DRC and the SFA to discuss the decision to reduce the number of days of isolation needed for migrants in TRCs from ten to five, given the improvement in the epidemiological situation. A follow-up meeting will be held in the coming days involving the USC Institute of Public Health for a final decision. Consequently, the new recommendation is not yet in force.

Lastly, on 27 July, a workshop on tie-dyeing was organized in TRC Blažuj. More than 25 migrants joined the IOM Handicraft Facilitator in a colourful clothing dyeing exercise. At the end of the activity, at least 30 shirts and other materials were dyed. Participating migrants were thrilled to learn tie-dyeing methods and enjoyed mixing colours, even inventing some personal techniques. The workshop turned out to be both an educational and playful opportunity to promote the well-being of the migrants residing in the centre. Furthermore, on 29 July, at the Sewing Corner of TRC Ušivak, a workshop for the creation of rope baskets was organized, in which both men and women of the centre happily participated.


 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting week, 105 migrants were reported to have benefited from the newly established and opened Mother and Baby WASH Unit (MBU) services (shower, bath, washing, and ironing), including 52 mothers and 53 children.

**# of people assisted with laundry services: 1,223**

**# of people assisted by the IOM MBU: 105**



The tie-dyeing workshop with migrants held in TRC Blažuj © IOM 2021

 **FOOD AND NUTRITION**

During the reporting week, the IOM/Red Cross outreach teams distributed XMRE-ready to use meals, along with 55 loaves of bread, to the migrants residing in locations outside the Bihać area. XMRE meal packages were donated by the Civil Department of the United States Embassy.

**# of meals distributed: 39,170**

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

On 25 July, the IOM/Red Cross outreach teams piloted a survey to gather information on the number of identified migrants who were offered accommodation and the number of migrants who refused accommodation and services related to accommodation, including the reason(s) for the refusal. As of 26 July, the survey will be conducted daily in USC outreach locations.

During the reporting period, a total of four pushback cases were reported, including one violent (in the Velika Kladuša area) and three non-violent (in the Bihać area). A total of 52 single adult men, mostly nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, were identified. All groups were offered accommodation and assistance through the provision of food and NFIs.

**# of food packages distributed: 473**

**# of hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 53**

 **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

In TRC Borići, an increase in cases of threats made by former migrants to the centre's staff has been observed in the last period,

**MAIN GAPS**

In the short term, additional funding is needed to procure food and NFI, and to cover the construction and running costs of the new TRC Lipa. Furthermore, the improvement of sanitary conditions for those sleeping outside remains a pressing concern. Additionally, 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 COVID-19 crisis.

In the medium to long term, some of the key gaps to address relate to the capacities of the authorities in the areas of screening migrant to identify specific vulnerabilities, manage shelter and accommodation, identify durable solutions for migrants and uphold their rights in the daily operations. As such, capacity-building activities remain a priority to progress towards the overarching goal of ensuring state ownership of the emergency response in BiH. Among Improvements are also needed to systematize data collection on migrants, including outside official reception centres, and to gather additional information on their needs and vulnerabilities.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



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MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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The tie-dyeing workshop held with migrants in TRC Blažuj © IOM 2021

notably by unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) who had previously been transferred to the Duje Centre in Doboj, and who currently sleep roughly near the centre's gate. Because death threats were also made to staff, the police was informed.

**ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION**

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).

Between 24 and 30 July, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 638 migrants (123 in the centres and 515 outside the centres) and a total of 93 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Four migrants returned to their CoO (2 Nepal, 1 Pakistan, 1 Afghanistan), bringing the total number of people returning in 2021 to 120.



Virtual counselling with IOM/AVRR in the Pakistan mission © IOM 2021