

2,810 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

2,322 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 **154** in 2021



COVID-19 VACCINATION IN CANTON SARAJEVO © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 28 September, IOM conducted the sixth Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise jointly with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and with the support of the Red Cross to collect information on the number of migrants present in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) outside of official reception centres. IOM visited a total of 181 locations, known for their presence of migrants, in six cantons. Preliminary results show a total of 1,104 identified migrants, of which 1,101 declared at the time of the exercise that they are not accommodated in any of the temporary reception centres in BiH.

At the same time, for the first time, the DTM exercise on the presence of migrants outside of reception centres was also held in other Western Balkan countries (Albania, Kosovo***, Montenegro and North Macedonia - excluding Serbia) with the aim to have more comprehensive data on mixed migration flows through the region and at the same time to be able to support those residing outside with humanitarian assistance, where needed. Preliminary results do not show a sharp increase of migrants.

On 29 September, the first session of COVID-19 vaccination in which a total of 58 migrants received the first dose of the vaccine took place in Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Ušivak, Canton Sarajevo. On the following day, 242 migrants received the first dose at the TRC Blažuj. This successful process was preceded by educational workshops on the importance and process of the immunization, as well as the survey among beneficiaries. The Public Health Institute of the Sarajevo Canton and Health Centre of Sarajevo Canton administered the vaccine provided by the Public

*Preliminary number recorded by IOM DTM on 28 September 2021

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

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

AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 539 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in TRCs in BiH, including 369 men, 55 women, and 115 children, which represents 15,1 per cent of the migrants assisted in TRCs. According to the data collected through the August DTM exercise, approximately 469 migrants from Afghanistan are living outside of formal reception facilities. Between 1 January and 26 September 2021, it is estimated that over 663,900 persons 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 updates on the presence of Afghans in BiH and the Western Balkans when changes are observed.

(source: OCHA)

Health Institute of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the IOM and the DRC, with the support of the European Union enabled the vaccination by providing relevant supplies, support staff and increased medical monitoring after vaccination. So far, in Una-Sana Canton (USC), 157 migrants have been vaccinated.

On 1 October, a handover of specialized equipment to the Border Police took place in Sarajevo. Within the EU-funded project, a total of 25 medium range handheld thermal imaging cameras (binocular) were handed over by the IOM to the Border Police. The use of these devices will significantly contribute to the efficiency of BiH border surveillance, detection and prevention of irregular border crossings, detection and prevention of smuggling of people and goods, and other forms of cross-border crime.

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IOM RESPONSE



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

There are currently 2,810 migrants accommodated in official reception facilities in BiH.

In TRC Ušivak, the construction works on the new IOM NFI warehouse are ongoing. Several repairs were done in accommodation units and the administrative building, including repair of 10 heating convectors.

In TRC Borići, as part of its regular maintenance work, IOM painted several rooms. The canopy on the security container at the entrance was replaced for protection against rain and snow.

In TRC Blažuj, a joint action was undertaken, where IOM technical staff, together with migrants, painted the walls of the corridor in many accommodation buildings. The electric power supply was restored in the Medecins du Monde (Mdm) container. A fourth tent was installed for the upcoming vaccination campaign.

In TRC Miral, accommodation containers were cleaned and disinfected. Maintenance staff continued repairing all malfunctions in the accommodation containers, notably the electric sockets and the power outlets. Various windows were repaired and protected with PVC to better isolate the buildings for the winter. Forty-nine beds were fixed, and eight tarpaulins were placed over the large tent for better protection against rain and snow.

of NFIs distributed: 7,356

of people assisted with NFIs: 882



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting period, IOM assisted a total of 750 persons with WASH services in BiH.

In TRC Ušivak, 98 persons, out of which 56 mothers and 42 children (20 boys and 22 girls), benefitted from the Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU). A water pipe of a wider diameter was installed in a trench that was dug up last week. The water pressure that has been a problem, is now expected to fulfil the needs of the kitchen.

of people assisted with laundry services: 750

of people assisted by the IOM MBU: 98



FOOD AND NUTRITION

During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 25,529 meals in all TRCs in BiH.

In TRC Blažuj, the information board in the kitchen was updated with new information to inform migrants on the upcoming menu, with pictures of the dishes for ease of reading for all.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM assisted four persons with identified

vulnerabilities or disabilities with assistance and food directly in their accommodation unit. Moreover, 372 kids meals were served to 128 children for breakfast. IOM continues supporting the MBWU with the distribution of juice boxes, milk, and fruit purees.

In TRC Miral, food-related photos from the past period were displayed on the food info board in the dining room. Some migrants were amused as they recognized themselves on some of those photos. A complaint regarding the quality of delivered flat bread to TRC Miral has been sent to the contractor to remedy.

of meals distributed: 25,529



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Borići, many changes were made to reorganize the accommodation spaces in view of possible new arrivals of people relocated by the SFA from the Velika Kladusa area. Although the relocation did not take place, the preparatory work will improve coordination of new arrivals and management of the centre isolation and quarantine zone.

At the initiative of the IOM Protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) National Coordinators from BiH and Greece, a joint meeting between the MHPSS & Protection team in BiH and Protection staff in IOM Greece was held on 23 September. During the meeting, the new strategy and action plan was presented to the teams, followed by exchanges of good practices and productive discussions to share some practical solutions for common challenges. In TRC Blažuj, the UNFPA invited all partner agencies to the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) online working group that is being planned.

During most of the community representative meetings held in the various TRCs across BiH, the main issue raised by migrants pertained to heaters and blankets in accommodation units. IOM is working to ensure all accommodation units are provided with functioning heaters. Work on awareness raising of migrants regarding important topics related to childcare and nutrition continues; and information sessions are held regularly to maintain beneficiaries engaged in camp coordination and camp management activities.



SIXTH DTM EXERCISE IN UNA SANA CANTON © IOM 2021

OUTREACH

The IOM Outreach Mobile team provided information and services to 1,586 migrants identified outside of TRCs, including 45 unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) and 94 families composed of 407 individuals. A total of 182 of the migrants met during the outreach visits accepted accommodation and were transported to various reception facilities, such as CCY Duje (6), TRC Borići (30) and PC Lipa (146). Additionally, 887 migrants received support through information sessions, while 467 migrants received Psychological First Aid (PFA) support in group sessions.

During the regular joint activity occurring every Thursday with the UNHCR and IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) teams, 35 adult men were profiled in outreach locations in the Bihac area. Only six were registered with the SFA, while 21 were accommodated in one of the reception facilities. During the reporting period, no incidences of pushback were reported.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

During the reporting period, a fire broke out in Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa ran by the SFA. According to the information received; the fire occurred following an altercation between beneficiaries. Thankfully, no one was hurt during the incident. Two tents were affected, and several beds burned down. The SFA and the Una-Sana Police (USC) Police were called on site.

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 25 September and 1 October, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 538 migrants (40 in the centres and 498 in outside locations) and a total of 92 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, two migrants returned to their CoO (Morocco).



AERIAL VIEW OF THE NEW SITE LIPA © 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.



COVID VACCINATION ROLLOUT IN TRC BLAŽUJ CANTON © IOM 2021



HANDOVER OF SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT TO THE BORDER POLICE © IOM 2021

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