

2,679 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

2,453 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**

1,138 Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018 **138** in 2021



ICHROMA II EQUIPMENT DONATION TO THE KUPRES HEALTH CENTER IN CANTON 10 © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Between 30 August and 3 September, representatives of the Ministry of Security (MoS), the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) of the Sarajevo Canton (SC) and IOM participated in a capacity building technical study to Greece. The visit provided the delegation with detailed operational knowledge of the process of reception and management of migrants and asylum-seekers in Greece, upon their arrival in the islands to their transfer to the mainland, and their accommodation in reception facilities. The observations and learnings from the visit aim to facilitate knowledge exchange and practical experience in the management of migration and the provision of protection-sensitive services.

On 30 August, as part of the "Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrants and Refugees Response in the Western Balkans" project funded by the EU Foreign Policy Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace, IOM delivered the ICHROMA II equipment to the Kupres Health Centre in Canton 10. ICHROMA II is a mobile blood analysis equipment devised for small institutions, used for COVID-19 serological and antigen tests and for other blood panel tests. The donation will help the Health Centre respond to the COVID-19 challenges in the community.

On 31 August, IOM conducted its fifth Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise jointly with the SFA, to collect information on the number of migrants outside of official reception facilities in BiH. IOM visited a total of 180 locations known to often have migrants, in six cantons (Una-Sana Canton (USC), Sarajevo Canton, Tuzla Canton, West Herzegovina Canton, Neretva-Herzegovina Canton and Canton 10), with 91 locations found empty.

*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 726 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in TRCs in BiH, including 95 women, 501 men and 130 children, which represents 26.1 per cent of the migrants assisted in TRCs. According to the data collected through the July DTM exercise, approximately 791 migrants from Afghanistan are living outside of formal reception facilities. Between 1 January and 9 August 2021, it is estimated that over 570,000 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.

Preliminary results show a total of 1,013 identified migrants, including 1,009 who declared not being accommodated in any TRC. IOM, SFA, and outreach partners continue to work to inform migrants living in informal settings of the opportunities to be accommodated in one of the reception facilities available in BiH, where they can access basic services, such as shelter, basic hygiene, sanitation, food and clothing.

Relocation of 202 migrants mostly families with children and unaccompanied or separated children (UASCs) from Outreach locations in USC (squats, improvised camps etc.) to TRC Borići took place on 2 September where they were provided immediate assistance.

IOM has officially completed all the construction work planned for the new TRC Lipa. The final steps required for the kitchen and dining area, as well as the connection of the site to the power grid, are underway.

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IOM RESPONSE

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)



During the reporting period, a total of 440 persons were accommodated in TRCs across BiH.

In TRC Miral, new neon lights have been installed to improve access and security in the accommodation units, and LED panels were installed in the new office and the kitchen. Apart from the usual work on doors and bedframes, the maintenance staff built metal shelves for the Red Cross kitchen.

In TRC Ušivak, repairs were done in accommodation units and additional heaters and blankets were provided due to the low temperatures. IOM also finalized building of the awning covering the guard house in the upper part of the centre.

In TRC Borići, maintenance staff finished painting the walls on the second floor, hallway, and several rooms to refresh the premises and prepare for future use. The maintenance staff also tested heaters and started repairing the broken ones in preparation for the change of season. Windows and locks were repaired to ensure they can be closed properly.

In TRC Blažuj, IOM's maintenance staff poured concrete in all the potholes on the access road while they also positioned a fence behind the containers to prevent the accumulation of waste.

A total of 9,011 NFI items were distributed in the TRCs of BiH during the reporting week. Donations are important for the continued distribution of NFIs to migrants in transit in BiH.

of NFIs distributed: 9,011

of people assisted with NFIs: 1,046

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)



During the reporting period, IOM assisted a total of 1,045 persons with WASH services. Multiple repairs were undertaken in order to ensure access to clean and functional facilities in all TRCs.

In TRC Miral, disinfection measures were conducted on 26 August. Septic tanks were cleared and 60 water pipes/flushers for the toilet tanks were repaired.

In TRC Borići, IOM maintenance team conducted the normal cleaning operations, including two daily cleaning of all premises, and one daily cleaning of the isolation units.

In TRC Ušivak, the Mother and Baby WASH Unit (MBU) provided services to 171 persons, out of which were 80 mothers and 91 children (42 boys and 49 girls). After a dry period season and a lack of water inflow, as a result of the recent rains, the IOM administrative building's access to water improved.

In TRC Blažuj, the usual maintenance works including cleaning of the drains and pipes were carried out, along with mowing of lawn and bush trimming, to ensure clear sights near the entrance gate and access road.

of people assisted with laundry services: 1,045

of people assisted by the IOM MBU: 171

FOOD AND NUTRITION



During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 28,559 meals in all TRCs in BiH.

IOM supported the World Vision MBU with distribution of juice, milk, fruit puree, and Baby Milk Substitutes (BMS). In TRC Borići, food and NFI assistants organized the distribution of sweets during lunch, for all the children under 18. The same packages were also delivered to children temporarily accommodated in the preventive isolation zone. A total of 95 migrants also used the community kitchen.

In TRC Blažuj, the outreach mobile team distributed 14 food items that consisted of sweets, snacks and canned tuna received following of closure of TRC Sedra.

of meals distributed: 28,559



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

On 30 August, following the mine awareness sessions organized in July 2021, two additional sessions were organized by IOM's Office of Staff Security in TRC Ušivak, in partnership with IOM certified instructors. Sessions were attended by 18 migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and held in English and Arabic, with simultaneous translation in Arabic and Farsi, and leaflets distributed to help migrants travelling through BiH to be aware of the dangers of land mines.

In TRC Miral, the IOM Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team created a Kaizala group for MHPSS and Protection, to facilitate interagency exchange of information, and more responsive MHPSS and Protection response and activities.

In TRC Ušivak, Pomozi.ba organized a meeting to address suggestions to improve the menu, as was discussed during the previous week's Council Meeting discussions. Additionally, a meeting with World Vision (WV) coordinators for UASC was held to discuss improvements of the UASC areas, with participation of the youth.



MINE AWARENESS SESSION WITH IOM CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS IN TRC UŠIVAK
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During the reporting period, a welcome meeting with the newly appointed DRC team leader was also held and provided an opportunity for IOM to emphasize the need for increasing health services and availability of medical staff after working hours, as well as the need for medical escorts outside of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) working hours.

In TRC Borići, the representatives of the BiH Football Association invited migrants to attend a football match of the BiH Female National Team vs. Slovenia Female National Team – juniors on 24 August 2021. A total of 21 migrants watched the match in the Bihac city stadium. The BiH Football Association is planning a future project that relates to the inclusion of the children from TRC Borići in football trainings in all categories, pioneers, juniors, and cadets. In TRC Blažuj, IOM received the materials purchased for migrants registration, including 21 colour ribbons and 1,500 PVC cards. Moreover, IOM and partner agencies discussed the possibility to extend their working hours according to the needs of the centre.

OUTREACH

The IOM outreach mobile team provided information and assistance to 708 migrants identified outside of TRCs, in 24 locations in USC. A total of 653 migrants received information on assistance available in the TRCs, while 55 accepted the offer for accommodation and were transported to various TRCs.

In addition, between 28 August and 3 September, 18 UASC were assisted by the IOM Outreach Mobile team; 13 declined accommodation, while five were transported to Reception Centre (RC) Duje, which provides tailored assistance to UASCs. Eleven families with 35 members (including 14 accompanied children) were identified in outreach locations and in transit in USC. Only four families (4 male heads of household (MHoH) and 4 single females (FS)) accepted transportation and accommodation to TRC Borići. Two single women were identified in outreach locations and in transit in USC, more specifically in the area of Bužim. Four pushback cases were reported, all non-violent. A total of 61 migrants were involved. The families accepted accommodation in TRC Borići and all 55 adult men accepted accommodation in Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa.

During the joint awareness raising activity on the promotion of the benefits of access to accommodation, AVRR and Asylum with UNHCR and IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) teams, 62 migrants were profiled in outreach locations in the Bihać area, out of which 8 were UASC and 54 were adult single men, mostly Pakistani (66.13%), Indian (19.35%) and Afghan (14.52%) nationals. No families and/or single women were identified. Of those who were profiled, 91.94 per cent were registered with the SFA, while 8.06 per cent did not have Attestation to seek asylum (AISA) documents. All UASC were previously accommodated in TRC Sedra, but only 10 adult single men were previously accommodated in TRC Blažuj.

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

SAFETY AND SECURITY

In TRC Borići, a theft of money and a passport, as well as a fight between two intoxicated migrants, were reported. Investigation on the theft is underway. In TRC Blažuj, on 25 August, four migrants blackmailed another migrant. As this constitute a serious house rule violation, the migrants were expelled from the centre.

In TRC Miral, IOM was called to intervene when some residents accused others of stealing. To avoid an incident, the Security Assistant informed CCCM, Area Security Coordinator, and the Team Leader on shift, as well as the SFA. The SFA said it would do its best to investigate the situation as soon as possible. Furthermore, a migrant registered in TRC Miral appeared in front of the gate with a stab wound in his stomach. The case was reported to the police and, in coordination with DRC, he was transported to the hospital in Bihac for further medical treatment, where he remained.

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). IOM and UNHCR continue to jointly disseminate information on AVRR, asylum procedures and assistance available in TRCs in locations in the USC. Between 28 August and 3 September, the IOM AVRR team also supported the DTM teams in collecting information on migrants residing outside the official reception facilities, being there a section to record the interest and knowledge of migrants of alternative options offered by the humanitarian actors in BiH.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



 Austrian Development Agency

 German Federal Agency for Technical Relief



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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SERVICE FOR FOREIGNERS' AFFAIRS



MINISTARSTVO SIGURNOSTI BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE
MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

