

4,531 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation

(this includes IOM Temporary Reception Centres, centres managed by the State and NGOs)

1,754 migrants and asylum seekers outside of centres

provisional number tracked by DTM in a pilot exercise

5 Temporary Reception Centres fully operational



130%

ASSISTED: 26,000

TARGETED: 20,000



IOM, THW and contractors finalizing assessment of the new food distribution area in TRC Lipa © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the meeting held last week between IOM, Ministry of Security, and the Service for Foreign Affairs (SFA) to discuss the construction plans for the new TRC Lipa, the Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) visited the site several times during the reporting period, with the contractor "Elektromontaža Ključ", IOM management, and technical staff to conduct the initial general assessments on the area where the works will be carried out. The team together with IOM, identified and marked the areas selected for various assistance (e.g. food distribution, non-food items distribution, and prayer area):

The COVID-19 epidemiological situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continued to cause general concern among the authorities, with restrictions still in place at both entity and cantonal levels. IOM continues to pay particular attention to COVID-19 prevention measures such as increasing disinfection in the centres, and closely monitoring the health conditions of migrants and asylum seekers. IOM also worked on rearranging and increasing isolation areas to better respond to the COVID-19 situation. In TRC Blazuj 20 new isolation containers will be placed (preparation works are ongoing), in TRC Miral a new isolation tent area was completed with 112 additional beds, and in TRC Borici a general reorganization of the space was carried out to be able to make space and accommodate returnees (as all the returnees must be quarantined).

Lockdown measures continued in TRC Miral and Sedra, based on

the decision of the Ministry of Health of Una-Sana Canton (USC), with exception for medical and vulnerable cases. Furthermore, in TRC Miral, to ensure full control of the epidemiological situation, and thanks to an excellent coordination between DRC, IOM and USC Public Health Institute, during the reporting period, all IOM and partner agencies staff (150 people in total) working in the centre, were tested for COVID-19, out of which 12 were positive.

On Friday, 2 April, an increased number of people returning from an attempt at crossing the border (around 20) sleeping rough in front of TRC Borići gate in makeshift shelters was noticed by IOM and partner organizations staff, most of whom were from Eritrea, while in front of TRC Sedra 12 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) were found. IOM/Red Cross Outreach team distributed food packages to all. After the medical screening by DRC on Monday 5 April, all were given accommodation in quarantine.

In TRC Sedra, interviews for the asylum procedure with the Ministry of Security (MoS) for two UASC (which were initially cancelled due to the lockdown of the centres) were postponed to a later date, thanks to coordination between IOM, Vaša Prava, UNHCR, and Centre for Social Welfare (CSW).

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IOM RESPONSE



New isolation area in TRC Miral © IOM, 2021

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM together with partners, continued to provide technical support to SFA in Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa. The electrical cables which were supplying power to PC tents were damaged by the cars passing by on the road and repaired the same week. IOM supported SFA by procuring additional 30 bunk beds for accommodation and isolation tents in PC Lipa.

IOM constantly works on improving internet connection in the centres, as such in TRC Sedra, internet router was installed in all hallways of the main building, in TRC Blazuj, poles and other electrical installations were installed at the playground area for BH-TELECOM to be connected to the power grid, and in TRC Usivak two brackets for Wi-Fi routers were installed in the administrative building.

Some of the concluded work in TRC Usivak, includes: construction work for the set-up of a new Mother and Baby water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facility (pending three containers), set up of containers for isolation, and for the Police. The Mother and Baby WASH facility will have a double container for dining/common room, a single container for laundry, and a sanitary container. The new isolation area has 10 containers, each has a maximum capacity of eight persons and is made of two separate rooms with toilets and showers each. In TRC Sedra, given the current epidemiological situation, IOM procured additional beds and mattresses (40 of each) to be used in case of a sudden need in the isolation area.

Furthermore, to increase visibility and improve security at night in TRC Miral, eight electric poles were installed throughout the centre for reflectors, and lights were also installed in the new isolation tent area.

of NFIs distributed: 7,760

of people assisted with NFIs: 895



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Between 3 and 9 April, CCCM coordination meetings were organized in the TRCs with all partner agencies including SFA, to effectively coordinate humanitarian assistance provided by all partners. In TRC Ušivak, partners discussed the current COVID-19 situation and the increased number of migrants and asylum seekers arriving at the centre who needs to be quarantined, and UNFPA informed on an agreement with the urological department of a Polyclinic, thanks to which migrants and asylum seekers will be provided with specialist examinations. In TRC Blažuj, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) informed that working hours of medical centre are from 08:00 AM to 03:00 PM, for any urgent case after the opening hours, emergency needs to be called. In TRC Sedra, at the Child Protection Working Group, partners discussed approval for the Child Protection Officer to escort UASC for transports if approved by Centre for Social Welfare (CSW). In TRC Sedra, the "Boys Parliament" meeting was held with presence of partners and two UASCs, outside the TRC for 15 minutes. UASCs were informed on the decision for their containers to be checked three times a week, and of the possibility to purchase food/items needed on "Konzum" application during the lockdown.



Supplies for the *Mother and Baby* WASH facility in TRC Usivak © IOM, 2021



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM together with the support of migrants and asylum seekers, distributed gravel on the plateau where the sanitary containers are located, and on the playground behind the dormitory in TRC Borici, as there is often soil erosion and sludge caused by adjacent sanitary containers. In TRC Ušivak, the sewer pipes near the toilets at the middle and upper part of the centre were repaired; a water heater was replaced; and drainpipe brackets installed in the toilets at the centre's middle part. In TRC Miral, an instantaneous water heater was installed in sanitary container used by migrants and asylum seekers residing in isolation area.

of people assisted with laundry services: 1,592

of laundry bags washed: 1,833

 **FOOD AND NUTRITION**

IOM and partners (Red Cross in Una-Sana Canton/Salakovac; and Pomozi.ba in Sarajevo Canton) continued to support the provision of three meals and two fruit snacks per day in all TRCs. In TRC Blažuj, following migrants and asylum seekers' request, IOM setup an additional table for extra juice/milk and bread in the dining room. In TRC Borići, fuse bays of the main power grid box in the community kitchen was repaired. Lastly, in TRC Miral, on 4 April, IOM organized a special dinner for migrants and asylum seekers celebrating Easter.

of meals distributed: 44,921

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams continued to provide food and NFI packages, personal protective equipment (PPE) and information on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) options to migrants residing in informal accommodation in Una-Sana Canton. The NFIs included clothes, hygiene items, sleeping bags, backpacks, shoes, jackets and raincoats. On a regular basis, the outreach teams distribute PPE, such as facial masks, single use gloves, and disinfection gels, and cleaning tools to migrants residing in squats, as part of COVID-19 response.

During the reporting period, IOM's Outreach team distributed 150 cooked meals (portions of rice and chicken with homemade bread) to migrants and asylum seekers, donated by the local restaurant "Lovac", in Bihać area. Lastly, IOM's Outreach team delivered 94 food packages to the SFA at PC Lipa, for migrants and asylum seekers arriving at the camp outside food distribution hours. The Outreach team also assisted a group of 51 migrants and asylum seekers returning from an unsuccessful attempt to cross the border, with open wounds, and without clothes and shoes on, with food and NFIs needed. All were referred to DRC for medical assistance.

of food packages distributed: 3,303

MAIN GAPS

In the short term, main gap is funds to cover construction and running costs for the new site TRC Lipa, procurement of food and non-food items; improvement of the sanitary conditions of those sleeping outside in the absence of appropriate accommodation options; and insufficient funds to cover expansions of TRCs and other COVID-19 related needs.

In the medium to long term, main gaps are capacity building of authorities in screening, processing, managing accommodation and solutions for migrants, to contribute to the overarching goal-the State to take full ownership of the response, while ensuring the rights of migrants and asylum seekers are upheld. Further support is needed to systemize data collection activities on the number of migrants present outside the centres and to include other components related to further knowledge on migrants needs and vulnerabilities.

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Non-food items distributed during outreach © IOM 2021

of Hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 2,181

 **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Strict prevention measures and lockdown of centres have caused several incidents and protests by migrants and asylum seekers. On 5 April in TRC Borici, migrants and asylum seekers who were sleeping rough in front of the centre, broke a padlock on a fence near the playground and attempted to enter, shouting they would set fire to the centre. IOM Security staff intervened immediately, blocking them in time. In TRC Sedra, several migrants, threatened TRC staff by throwing stones on their cars. IOM security puts effort in explaining to migrants the importance of abiding by COVID-19 prevention measures. Lastly, in the morning of 3 April, a father with an eight-year-old son who was shot in the back arrived in front of TRC Miral asking for help. The ambulance was immediately called, and the child was transported to the Cantonal hospital in Bihać. The child is in a stable condition, and the investigation is ongoing.



Disinfection of isolation area in TRC Sedra © IOM 2021