

3,244 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation in the official reception facilities in BiH

1,892 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**

1,158 Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018, **168** in 2021



TRAINING SESSION FOR THE BORDER POLICE, THE SFA AND MANAGEMENT OFFICERS COORDINATING THE POLICE BODIES OF BIH IN BIHAĆ © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 12 October, His Excellence (H.E.) the Ambassador of Switzerland to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Daniel Hunn, and his associate visited the temporary reception centre (TRC) Ušivak for a coordination meeting with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), representative of the municipality of Hadžici, and IOM representatives to set-up the upcoming visit of the Swiss Minister of Justice and Police to the centre. The visit is planned for 21 October.

Between 12 and 15 October, IOM organized training sessions for the Border Police, the SFA and management officers coordinating the police bodies of BiH in Bihac (canton of Una-Sana) on the topics of assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), protection, risks of irregular migration and cultural competency and awareness. The training serves to improve the capacities of state authorities in the registration, screening and identification of vulnerable migrants, as well as in the management of reception facilities with the overall goal supporting state authorities to take charge of the emergency response.

On 12 October a concert of migrant musicians from Guinea was held in TRC Miral entitled "Talents of People in Movement." The event was organized by IOM in coordination with the SFA, UNFPA, the association "Zene sa Une", and the migrants. A presentation of the traditional dance of migrants from Pakistan was also organized, as well as a joint meeting with autumn sweets and hot drinks.

* Preliminary number recorded by IOM DTM on 28 September 2021

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

AFGHANISTAN UPDATE

There are currently 914 migrants from Afghanistan accommodated in TRCs in BiH, which represents 34,2 per cent of migrants assisted in TRCs. Between 1 January and 3 October 2021, it is estimated that 665,302 persons have been internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan. (source: OCHA).

The impact that this crisis may have on the Western Balkans (WB) is difficult to predict. IOM is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and along the Eastern Mediterranean Route (EMR). Currently, there has been no significant change in the nationality composition of migrants inside and outside official reception centers. It is interesting to note that, based on the first Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise on migrants' presence (MP) conducted at WB level (Albania, BiH, Kosovo***, Montenegro, North Macedonia - excluding Serbia) on 28 September, most of the migrants observed residing outside of formal reception facilities were from Afghanistan, 99 per cent (564) of which were observed in Bosnia and Herzegovina while less than 1 per cent (10) were observed in North Macedonia. Of the 214 migrant children identified, 160 were from Afghanistan, representing 75 per cent of the total number of migrant children out-of-reception in the sub-region.

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

This type of social activity for migrants, which was a pilot, will be replicated in future in order to contribute to the physical and mental well-being of migrants.

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IOM RESPONSE

 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

There are currently 3,244 migrants accommodated in official reception facilities in BiH.

In TRC Borići, to strengthen the security of migrants, IOM maintenance staff completed the repair and installation of a CCTV surveillance system, which covers a wider surveillance range as well as all areas around the centre. In addition, social games were distributed to children in the isolation areas, while a total of 20 new bunk beds were delivered to the TRC in case of sudden need. In TRC Ušivak, with the aim of improving well-being in accommodation containers, IOM maintenance staff installed additional beds in the family area and provided two additional heaters. Moreover, IOM finalized the establishment of an additional space for the IOM outreach team and for a multifunctional team of the Center for Social Welfare (CSW).

In TRC Blažuj, a service provider, with the help of the IOM maintenance staff, placed gravel and a stabilization pad on the centre's plateau to reinforce the tents in view of the accommodation of new migrants. Finally, a mass distribution of hygiene kits donated by Qatar Charity took place during the week.

In TRC Miral, the accommodation containers were renovated, while several water heaters were repaired in the UASC area. Furthermore, IOM began arranging for the procurement of winter items; during the reporting week, 100 jackets and 60 blankets were received from the central warehouse in Bihać.

of NFIs distributed: 9,759

of people assisted with NFIs: 1,090

 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

During the reporting period, IOM assisted a total of 593 persons with WASH services in BiH.

In TRC Miral, several water and drain pipes for the toilet tanks in various sanitary containers were repaired, in anticipation of a greater influx of migrants in the coming period. In TRC Ušivak, the Mother and Baby Wash Unit (MBWU) provided services for 113 persons, 59 of which were mothers and 54 were children.

As regards the protection of migrants' health and in compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures, regular cleaning and disinfection activities were carried out in all centres

of people assisted with laundry services: 593

of people assisted by the IOM MBWU: 113

 FOOD AND NUTRITION

During the reporting period, IOM distributed a total of 31,122 meals in all TRCs in BiH.

In TRC Borići, in coordination with the Red Cross, special meals were prepared and served for children with diagnosed enterocolitis and their condition was regularly monitored. A Baptist organization donated 88 packages with dry food, dates, fruit compote, almonds, water, and raisins for children.

In TRC Ušivak, a menu that consists of a sandwich, chocolate bar, fruit and fruit juice was provided daily for school children. IOM continued supporting World Vision's Mother and Baby unit (MBU) and handed over 54 pieces of baby juice, 36 liters of milk, 50 pieces of fruit puree and 10 Baby Milk Supplement (BMS).

Due to poor water quality, the Public Health Institute advised the city population to boil water before consumption until further notice. Accordingly, IOM distributed bottled water to all beneficiaries in the general population and those in the isolation areas, a total of 600 bottles so far.

of meals distributed: 31,122

 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRC Blažuj, UNFPA held a training course on the topic of "Managing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies", which was attended by representatives of all partner organizations, including IOM staff. In addition, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of Security (MoS), together with the adviser of the Ambassador of Bangladesh, visited the TRC and had a brief informative meeting with the Camp Manager. Finally, the Danish Refugee Council, with the support of IOM, has announced that the revaccination of migrants will be organized soon and that it will be carried out on several occasions by the end of the year.

IOM conducts regular satisfaction surveys on the services provided to migrants in TRCs. During the reporting week, in TRC Miral an internal survey on the quality of food, especially bread, was conducted by IOM, as several complaints were raised by migrants in the previous period. A total of 60 migrants participated in this survey and 12 of them (20%) said they were not satisfied with the quality of flat bread. Based on the results, IOM will act accordingly in order to accommodate migrants' requests to the extent possible.

In the new TRC Lipa, several visits were made, also by IOM Resource Management Unit staff, representatives of Technisches Hilfswerk (THW), representatives of RAI TV Italia and the Embassy of Bangladesh to see the state of works of the centre.



TALENTS OF PEOPLE IN MOVEMENT EVENT IN TRC MIRAL. © IOM 2021

OUTREACH

The IOM outreach mobile team provided information and services to 1,372 migrants identified outside of TRCs. The majority of migrants observed outside of formal accommodation facilities were from Afghanistan (838) and Pakistan (455). Most were single adult males (766). A total of 136 families were assisted and 53 unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs).

The IOM outreach mobile team provided 2,861 services to migrants reached outside of reception facilities, including 1,336 information sessions, 875 Psychological First Aid, 190 transportation services, 263 food and 197 non-food items (hygiene items, shoes, jackets).

Furthermore, IOM assisted a total of 181 migrants who accepted accommodation with transportation to various reception facilities, including 87 to TRC Boríci, 87 to PC Lipa, and 7 to TRC Miral.

During the joint regular activity "Communication with Communities," IOM and UNHCR teams profiled 36 migrants in outreach locations in the Bihać area, all of whom were adult men. Out of the 36, 72 per cent were from Pakistan, and 28 per cent from Afghanistan. Only six migrants were previously accommodated in one of the reception facilities out of USC. However, they declined accommodation in PC Lipa.

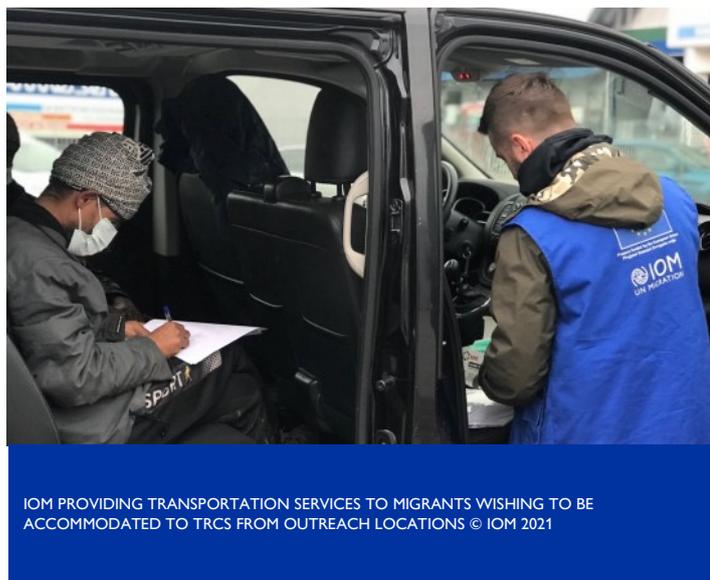
SAFETY AND SECURITY

In TRC Ušivak, on 14 October, an emergency drill was organized. All the staff of partner agencies were involved. However, the exercise did not involve the migrants residing in the centre. The exercise was part of regular follow-up procedures by the IOM Office of Staff Security (OSS). In Boríci, to guarantee better security measures, the CCTV system was upgraded and is currently fully operational.



ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

IOM's AVRR teams were 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. IOM and UNHCR continued to jointly disseminate information on AVRR, asylum procedures and assistance available in TRCs in locations in the USC. Between 09 and 15 October, the IOM AVRR team reached a total of 480 migrants (14 in the centres and 466 in outside locations) and a total of 77 in-depth counselling sessions were held. Additionally, two migrants returned to their Country of origin (1 from Pakistan and 1 from Morocco).



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 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.

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