



Medical screening in TRC Bira, IOM



Families sleeping rough in front of TRC Borici in need of safe and dignified accommodation, UNICEF



2,618
New arrivals in August
(source: MoS BiH)



6,531
Persons in formal accommodation
(at the end of the month, source MoS, MHRR, IOM, UNHCR)



3,250 - 3,800
Persons outside
(at the end of the month, source DRC, local authorities)

Arrivals

During August 2020, BiH authorities registered the arrival of 2,618 migrants and asylum-seekers to the country, bringing the total for 2020 to almost 11,600 (of which there are approximately 260 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)). The majority of people arriving in August declared to be from Afghanistan (33%), Bangladesh (32%), and Pakistan (15%).

Presence in BiH at the End of the Month

Overall, it is estimated that between 9,800 and 10,300 migrants and asylum-seekers are in the country at the end of August 2020. Some 6,500 migrants and asylum-seekers are sheltered in reception centres (some 3,200 in Sarajevo Canton (SC) and close to 3,300 in Una-Sana Canton (USC)) while between 2,250 and 3,800 are estimated to be in squats, are on the move or in border areas, mostly in USC. Among those people in reception facilities, some 76% are single adult males, 16% are families with children and about 7% are UASC.

Key Gaps and Challenges

Changes in BiH policies, COVID-19, and lack of access to dignified services

The mixed movement situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is increasingly challenging to the authorities and humanitarian actors, due to increased arrivals and a chronic lack of accommodation capacity, resulting in increased public tensions and unease expressed by the host communities. On 5 August, the presidency of a major BiH political party, the SDA, called upon the Ministry of Security to urgently prepare measures with an aim to slow down the entry of migrants to BiH, their accommodation in migrant centres, return to countries from which they have arrived to BiH and decrease their presence among the local population. On 27 August, the BiH Presidency agreed to ask the Council of Ministers of BiH and all other institutions in BiH responsible for migration issues to relocate reception centres away from populated and urban areas into newly constructed facilities for their accommodation.

During August, nine cases of COVID-19 were confirmed among the migrant and asylum-seeking population in TRCs in USC. In accordance with the decision of the USC government, all new arrivals and returnees are supposed to be accommodated in COVID-19 quarantine (asymptomatic area) for seven days. Furthermore, in coordination with DRC, medical screenings were done in all TRCs for the entire populations. The confirmation of COVID-19 among migrants and asylum-seekers naturally caused tension among local authorities as well as the local population in USC.

The Operational Headquarters (OPHQ) in USC responsible for the migration response held a meeting in August, with the presence of IOM, UNHCR, DRC and OSCE. Some of the main conclusions included: 1) Prohibiting migrants and asylum-seekers from using public transport or moving freely outside of TRCs; 2) Introducing check points on all entrances to the Canton in order to avoid more migrants and asylum-seekers from coming in; 3) Moving all UASC to centres outside of USC. In light of the above decisions, all transportation services offered by IOM were suspended, with the exception of transportation for medical purposes. Due to

POPULATION OVERVIEW ACCOMMODATED AND ASSISTED AT THE END OF AUGUST 2020

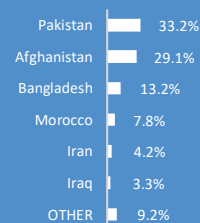
76%
Single adult males

16%
Families with children

7%
Women and girls

7%
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

Top declared Countries of Origin of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Migrants Accommodated in BiH at the end of August



this reason, many families and UASC waiting in front of TRC Miral could not be transported to TRCs Sedra or Borici. During the last week of August, 51 members of families who were residents of TRCs Borici or Sedra were observed in front of TRC Miral. IOM provided support and food to those outside the TRC gates. Additionally, police randomly picked up undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers in a bus and left them outside ETC Lipa without securing accommodation. Overall, the situation in USC, especially in Bihać and Velika Kladuša, is [overwhelming the existing accommodation capacities \(given restrictions on admission\) and an estimated 3,500 people look for alternative coping solutions, including squats](#). Migrants and asylum-seekers who cannot be accommodated in TRCs/ETC face a wide array of protection risks, including lack of access to: basic safe shelter, WASH, essential preventive COVID-19 medical care, structured service delivery and registration, and are subjected to deteriorating weather conditions and an unsanitary environment.

[The increased number of people stranded with limited options for onward movement and the evident lack of dignified and safe shelter capacities have triggered increased public unrest among host communities](#). Multiple protests have been held, protesters demand the immediate removal of migrants and asylum-seekers from USC and closure of reception centres in Bihac municipality. The USC authorities issued a ban on the transport of migrants to and within USC, tasked Mol USC to set up checkpoints at the inter-entity boundary line (IEBL) and prevent the entry of migrants to USC. The Counsel of Ministers were requested to relocate UASC to the reception centres outside USC together with UN agencies, while the previous decisions on closing TRCs Bira and Miral remain.

UASC

Lack of accommodation capacities for UASC is still one of the main child protection concerns. Many UASC do not possess documents and are not able to be accommodated in TRCs/ETC. For example, [there is no solution for the majority of UASC identified at ETC Lipa, and most of them end up being taken outside of the camp, which results in them re-entering the ETC and irregularly residing in one of the tents with single men](#). DRC and SCI Outreach teams, IOM CCCM's and UNICEF and UNHCR/BHWI social workers across the country report on an increase of UASC and children in male-headed households in TRCs and squats. Proper assessment of best interest of children and protection relevant services are challenged due to: a lack of child friendly shelters and a chronic lack of social work capacities in TRCs. It is estimated that there are [more than 500 vulnerable UASC children in BiH](#).

Mental Health/Psychosocial Support

UNICEF/MdM MHPSS team reports that alleged violence by the police during attempts to cross the border is continuously reported by beneficiaries, in addition to the local population's protests against migrants and asylum-seekers in USC, increases feelings of fear and insecurity among children. [Many children have experienced violence by police at the border before and are now frightened to be victims of violence on their way to the border, due to the protests against migrants and asylum-seekers](#). Moreover, they do not feel safe to leave TRCs even just for a walk, as they are afraid of being attacked by the local population.

Key Achievements

IOM and UNHCR with the support of the EU launched a new project "Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans", which is financed under the [EU Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace](#).

[In Sarajevo Canton, the first women's examination sessions were organized by UNFPA in cooperation with Sarajevo Health Centre](#) in order to provide the necessary services in the field of sexual and reproductive health. In TRC Usivak, 45 women participated in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) sessions while 17 SRH examinations were performed.

UNICEF with its partners Save the Children (SCI) in USC and World Vision (WV) in SC [started with the implementation of a new nonformal education activity consisting of online English language learning](#) through the Akelius language learning course. UNICEF/SCI/WV will provide tablets to children during these classes, and English teachers are hired to facilitate classes and provide support along with the UNICEF/SCI education team. In the first week of implementation, UNICEF/SCI through Akelius online learning platform reached 102 children.

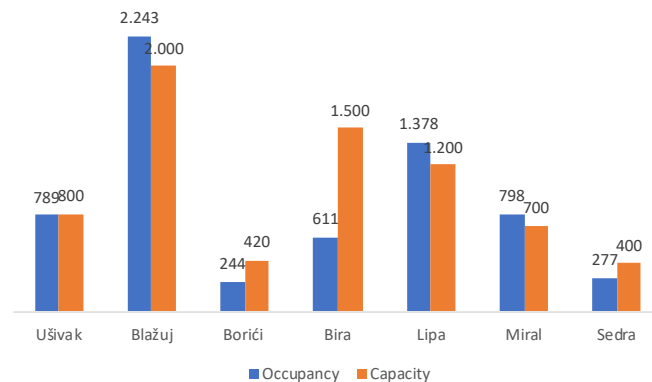
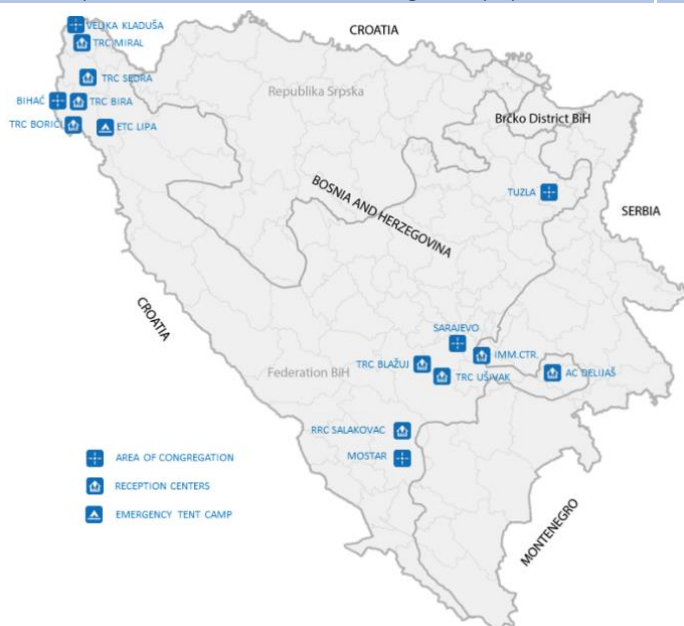
CENTER COORDINATION AND CENTER MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Key Gaps:

- Migrants and asylum-seekers continue to abscond from isolation and quarantine areas in TRCs, potentially spreading COVID-19 to others.
- Restriction of movement reintroduced, and protests by locals increase tension among TRCs population.

Key Achievements:

- Increased coordination among partners in TRCs in regard to organization of various activities for migrants and asylum-seekers.



Overview of the Reception Centres

- TRC Ušivak (opened in October 2018), in Hadžići Municipality, is currently a mixed profile centre planned for accommodation of vulnerable categories.
- TRC Blažuj (opened in December 2019), in Ilidža Municipality, is predominantly for single men.
- TRC Borići (opened in January 2019), in the City of Bihać, exclusively hosts families with children, UASC, and other vulnerable groups.
- TRC Bira (opened in October 2018), in the City of Bihać, predominantly accommodates single men, male-headed households with children, and UASC.
- ETC Lipa (opened April 2020), in the City of Bihać, exclusively hosts single men.
- TRC Miral (opened in October 2018), in Velika Kladuša, predominantly accommodates single men and UASC.
- TRC Sedra (opened in July 2018), in Cazin Municipality, is exclusively for families with children, UASC, and other vulnerable individuals who are prioritized for voluntary relocation from other sites.
- Refugee Reception Centre Salakovac (RRC) (in operation since 2000) near Mostar, provides accommodation to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- Asylum Centre Delijaš (AC) (in operation since 2014), in Trnovo Municipality, exclusively accommodates individuals who have sought asylum in BiH.

CCCM meetings are regularly organized with all partner agencies present at the TRCs. In August, in TRC Sedra, all partners were invited to organize themed workshops for migrants (eg. focusing on health, legal assistance, etc.). In TRC Bira, some of the action points from the meetings were: to strengthen safety and security measures and minimize the entrance of adult males into the UASC zone; focus on integration of migrants within the local community by implementing activities such as cricket tournaments, cleaning of Pljesevica mountain, workshops and excursions for UASC and adults; establish entertainment for those in isolation; set up individual Coursera (online educational platform) introduction sessions with the asylum-seekers; and to organize workshops or group therapies with a psychologist, targeting migrants, with the aim to sensitize them on the dangers related to onward movement and consequences upon their return to the TRCs. In TRC Borići, CCCM asked partners to constantly reiterate to migrants that once they leave the TRC it could be difficult to get back inside, due to the new decisions by Cantonal authorities.

Site improvements

Sarajevo Canton and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

TRC Blažuj, continues to have the largest number of registered persons of all the TRCs. Minor works and improvements during August included the repair of electricity fuses in two of the buildings and the electricity in the prayer room. Also, drain-pipe in the kitchen was repaired. In TRC Ušivak, in addition to all the regular repairs, metal bars were placed on the isolation building for further protection.

Una Sana Canton

In TRC Bira, works included strengthening the bars on windows in the isolation area in order to prevent unauthorized entries and exits of migrants and a metal bar was welded on a door to seal off the isolation area. Furthermore, in the isolation area, additional beds were mounted and electricity connected in the accommodation units. One of the challenges is that obsolete electrical installations, which are not strong enough to support uninterrupted electricity supply, cause frequent electricity outages. This is especially the case in the laundry and kitchen as the fuse seems to be insufficient and not strong enough to support smooth running of the apparatuses there.

Besides the regular repair of sanitary facilities in TRC Borići, a door was mounted to separate the isolation area from the rest of the building. Other works included installation of a rain cover on the security container, repair of the fence around the isolation area and

the fence where the community kitchen is. The electricity was repaired in the community kitchen and at the info-desk. The wall between first and second floor was repaired and painted and part of the roof on the third floor was repaired.

ETC Lipa had a higher number of unauthorized entrances towards the end of August. Although the accommodation capacity was increased to 1,300 persons, approximately 350 persons still had to be turned down weekly. Furthermore, a local vendor inspected the security containers, since there were leaks, and did necessary repairs related to lighting and installation of gutters to prevent future leaks. Some of the regular repairs included: fence pillars, fence behind the isolation area and valves in the showers.

In TRC Miral in order to increase capacity, the medical containers were transformed into accommodation containers and the room which was used as pre-registration area is now used as a medical room. Furthermore, a tent was set up for isolation purposes with 80 beds, in addition to the isolation containers with 18 beds, totalling to 98 places. A metal net was added at the area where the isolation containers are, which provides a physical barrier preventing persons from absconding and physical contact with others.

In TRC Sedra UASC containers were equipped with fans, as requested previously by migrants and asylum-seekers during the community meetings. Mold was scraped off from walls inside and in front of the pediatric unit, and the walls were repainted. The stairs were installed at a new entrance at the back of the bungalows where partner agencies are located, as the main entrance for those offices is located next to the isolation area. Minor repairs included water heater in women's shared bathroom, ceiling in one of the accommodation rooms, and installation of wooden stairs in front of MDM container.



Community representative meeting in ETC Lipa, IOM

[Accountability to Affected Populations](#)

[Communication with communities, participation and transparency](#)

IOM encourages the centres' population to play an active role in decision-making processes and activities that affect them. TRCs have [Community Representative Councils](#) and regular meetings are organized by IOM with partner agencies, including DRC. The Community Representative Councils serve as a platform for discussion of TRC issues, conflict prevention and resolution, dialogues between different migrant and asylum-seeking groups and between the centre population and centre management.

In August, In TRC Miral, main discussions included instructions on getting the "white paper"¹ for registration to receive ID cards. Additionally, correspondence was held with MDM as a follow up for the implementation of the Pilot Project "Harm Reduction Program for Substance Abusers" as a response to the issue raised by Representatives from previous CRC meetings. In ETC Lipa, IOM spoke about the incident that occurred on 27 August, when migrants were protesting against the local police and explained that issues cannot be resolved with violence. In TRC Bira, the topics included updates on COVID-19 initiatives taken in the context of the lockdown, such as the organization of shopping for TRCs residents etc. In TRC Blazuj the representatives from India requested for more choices of meals without beef and some representatives also asked for electricity to be improved. The DRC Community Based Protection Team, together with DRC GBV Specialist, launched an exercise with female beneficiaries in TRC Borici and TRC Sedra, including all female Community Representatives, with the purpose of updating the analysis of their needs, service provision and their engagement in these centres. IOM and partners shared information with the TRCs population on the current political situation including protests by local population, and the decisions made by USC government on restriction of movement.

On Ashura (a day of religious importance for those of Islamic faith), in TRC Bira, two migrants from Pakistan provided water, milk and tea to the rest of the center's population. In ETC Lipa, migrants also organized night prayers and distributed sweets to commemorate Ashura. In TRC Bira, which hosts a significant number of single men and unaccompanied boys, IOM and Save the Children regularly organize the [Boys Parliament](#), specifically to ensure that their views and needs are being accounted for. In August, UASC requested for lockers, as most thefts occur during the night. CCCM shared the latest updates and reiterated the decisions made by USC government – all new arrivals and returnees from the "game" are obliged to stay in COVID -19 quarantine area for seven days. IOM is also running [info-desks](#) in all TRCs, as reference points where the centre population can ask general questions and access information about available assistance and protection services within and outside of the TRCs. This is also a platform used by IOM and other partner agencies to communicate and share information and updates with the centre population. IOM is screening a video with the centres' house rules, service schedules and similar relevant information on the public TV displays in TRCs.

[Feedback and complaint mechanisms](#)

The centre population can also submit feedback and complaints, or report incidents in person at the info-desks in each TRC, or anonymously in the complaints/feedback boxes. Feedback and complaint committee meetings are regularly organized in all TRCs/ETC. In August, feedback was found in Sedra and Lipa which were adequately addressed. In ETC Lipa, the members found three letters of appreciation from migrants towards IOM where they expressed gratitude for the support received.

¹ This refers to a document received from SFA with identification details of migrants and asylum-seekers needed for registration.

Key Gaps:

- Lack of systemic solutions for the referral and reception of increasing numbers of UASC in USC.
- SGBV remains a key protection concern for migrants and asylum-seekers. Quality of response, reporting of incidents, and implementation of laws related to SGBV should be improved. Low reporting due to cultural/social pressures and practices, lack of knowledge of reporting options, and misconceptions of SGBV as a 'private issue' are all contributing factors to perpetuating SGBV among vulnerable individuals.

Key Achievements:

- 92 guardianships were assigned to unaccompanied children by Centres for Social Welfare, directly and in partnership with SCI and CWS, through UNICEF support in USC and Sarajevo Canton.
- UNHCR engaged in the monitoring process of registration of new arrivals and issuing attestations on intention to seek asylum conducted by SFA in TRC Ušivak. The objective is to gather information on current practices to feed into the design of a training plan for SFA and SOPs for the prioritisation process, as well as to improve registration practices concerning vulnerable persons, such as UASC.

Asylum and Registration

As a follow up to the agreed UNHCR and MHRR integration outside the centre plan for refugees accommodated in RRC Salakovac, on 6 August UNHCR, MHRR, BHWI and Vasa Prava BiH met the concerned refugees in Salakovac and informed them of the planned solutions, which shall be pursued in cooperation with the Mostar City Administration representatives. Refugees reacted positively to the proposed plan.

From **64,844 detected arrivals between 1 January 2018 and 31 August 2020 by BiH authorities**, 60,081 (93%) formally expressed intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigner's Affairs. Of these, 2,543 (4%) chose and were able to formally lodge an asylum claim with the Sector for Asylum (SA). During August, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs registered 2,519 attestations of intention to seek asylum, this is 17 per cent increase compared to the previous month (2,150) and 11 per cent decrease compared to August 2019 (2,828). Sector for Asylum (MoS) registered 13 first instance asylum claims during the month. From 1 January to 31 August 2020, a total of 186 first instance asylum claims were registered by MoS. Overall, this is a 57 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2019 (434). The following are the top five countries of origin of applicants of first instance asylum applications in BiH in 2020: Iraq (35%), Afghanistan (16%), Turkey (12%), Pakistan (8%) and Morocco (8%). Together, asylum-seekers originating from those five countries account for 78 per cent of all asylum applications made in 2020 thus far.

A total of **316 asylum-seekers are awaiting RSD interviews or a decision on their claim**. UNHCR is aware of an additional 376 individuals who wish to register their asylum claim and have been unable to do so. Lack of timely and sound legal protection, as a result of lack of registration of asylum claims and long waiting times in RSD procedures, may be a contributing factor for family with children, including asylum-seeking ones, to engage in dangerous irregular onward movement with the assistance of smugglers/traffickers. Several factors hinder fair and efficient access to asylum for those in need of international protection. Among those factors are: limited capacity of SA to register and process asylum claims; limited visits by the SA to conduct asylum registrations; short notice for asylum interviews preventing proper preparation and attendance; lack of interpretation; restrictions on freedom of movement in BiH; suspension of asylum-seeker's asylum claims if an asylum-seeker changes their address without notifying the authorities within three days; and finally, although there is no legal provision that forbids the expression of intent to seek asylum on multiple occasions, the SFA stopped re-issuing attestations on intention to seek asylum, leaving the SA to assess on an individual basis justified reasons for failure to formally apply for asylum within the fourteen days validity of the first issued attestation.

Child Protection

Key achievements

UASC designated zones continued to be operational, providing 24/7 child protection support to both UASC and children within families in TRCs Borici, Bira, Miral and Sedra through UNICEF/SCI, and in TRC Usivak through UNICEF/World Vision. **A total of 1,034 children on the move (145 girls and 889 boys, including 715 UASC) benefited from on-site 24/7 protection support (case management, MHPSS, legal aid) as well as non-formal and recreational activities, through child friendly spaces (CFS) in TRCs Usivak, Borici, Sedra, Bira during the month of August; 799 children benefited from CFS activities specifically.**

Through UNICEF support for child protection activities, CSW Kljuc identified 34 UASC at the checkpoint Velecevo ensuring BIA, referral to relevant services and psychosocial support. Out of these UASC, only two were accommodated in TRCs, due to lack of accommodation capacity and decisions of the USC authorities. A total of 92 guardianships were assigned to unaccompanied children by Centers for Social Welfare, directly and in partnership with SCI and CWS, through UNICEF support in USC and Sarajevo Canton. In TRCs Usivak and Bira, UNFPA referred 47 unaccompanied children to other agencies for further support; the majority of UASC were referred due to reported health and accommodation issues. Moreover, UNFPA has referred and continuously

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

831

Migrants and asylum-seekers identified by DRC Protection Monitoring Teams in six TRCs, ETC Lipa and RRC Salakovac, and referred them (1,857 referrals conducted) to various services in TRCs

1,331

Migrants and asylum-seekers in need were assisted by DRC Protection Outreach Teams through protection referrals nationwide.

8,255

Assistances were provided through distribution of food and non-food items to men, women and children sleeping rough or reporting pushbacks from Croatia.

1,907

Migrants and asylum-seekers reported push-back incidents and the most vulnerable cases were referred to medical assistance and accommodation/registration through DRC Protection Teams.

822

Migrants and asylum-seekers were disembarked in Velecevo during August

ASYLUM HIGHLIGHTS

13

New asylum claim registrations, 186 in total in 2020

5

followed up on previously identified two vulnerable cases in TRC Bira with allegations that they are receiving frequent threats from smugglers and are in a heightened risk of being exposed to GBV. UNHCR/BHWI newly identified 244 UASC (transferred from TRC Blažuj and independent arrivals in TRC Ušivak). A total of 73 requests were submitted to initiate guardianship.

Trends and gaps identified

Lack of accommodation capacities for UASC is still one of the main child protection concerns and following decisions made by OPHQ, access to TRCs Bira and Miral have ceased, and beneficiaries cannot be transported to any TRC. Identification of vulnerable categories, including children, is difficult and even when such categories are identified, only the most vulnerable can be referred, but eventual transportation and accommodation still depends on police and SFA clearance, which cannot be obtained in most cases, and it restricts vulnerable persons in need of adequate services. Given the current situation which makes access to accommodation more difficult and uncertain, both new arrivals and registered returnees from failed onward movement formed a tent settlement in front of TRC Borici with 20-40 people being prevented access to food and shelter. They received basic services from UNICEF/SCI CPO, IOM and DRC medical staff. Considering that the isolation area on the third floor was disbanded, TRC Borici had limited space for COVID-19 quarantine due to a high turnover as well as new arrivals, further complicating the situation in front of the TRC.

Police continued to bring migrants and asylum-seekers found in squats around the city to ETC Lipa, although the capacities of ETC Lipa were already full. UASC were regularly identified by UNICEF/SCI team and CWS legal guardians at ETC Lipa. However, only the most vulnerable cases were given clearance by SFA for accommodation in TRCs. There is no solution for the majority of UASC identified at ETC Lipa and most of them ended up being taken outside of the camp, which resulted in them re-entering irregularly and residing with single men. Daily fluctuation of UASC in the TRC complicates gathering of relevant documentation for initiation of the procedure for determination of guardians.

Based on the decisions made by the OPHQ in USC, police forces brought migrants and asylum-seekers from squats in Bihac and Cazin and those arriving by buses from Banja Luka to the IEBL near Bosanska Otoka. Migrants and asylum-seekers, including women and children, were left stranded for days with no access to food or shelter. The number of people at IEBL near Bosanska Otoka reached up to 600 (according to DRC report) including around 28 children identified during the month by different field actors (DRC, SCI, UNICEF), out of which 25 were UASC. UNICEF CPIE monitoring team identified 10 UASC disembarking from the buses in August.

Key recommendations

In light of measures brought by OPHQ in USC, there is an urgent need to address the issue of UASC sleeping rough without access to appropriate support services. In order to provide protection to unaccompanied children and children in families, long-term solutions with additional and adequate reception capacities are needed in USC, as well as other formal alternative care options such as family-based care. There is a need to ensure access to basic support services as priorities for humanitarian work, taking into account the protection risks that children face in their absence. Special protection mechanisms which mitigate risks faced by children considering their needs should be established and coordinated by all actors. There is also a need for a systematic solution to the appropriate profiling and assessment of male headed families which will protect the best interest of children.

Gender Based Violence

UNFPA has been coordinating relevant authorities and humanitarian response partners by chairing the GBV Working Group. During the meeting, the following was discussed: challenges present on the field, mostly related to risks of GBV for women and UASC; upcoming GBV Safety Audits in TRCs; update on GBV referral pathways; establishment of PSEA SOP for BH; and assessing the need of GBV trainings for newly engaged staff. In addition, the organization of a bilateral meeting regarding establishment of the GBV referral pathway in ETC Lipa was identified. In Sarajevo and USC, UNFPA psychosocial experts have supported and followed up on 66 previously identified GBV cases, out of which 24 new GBV cases were identified and included an initial interview. All the identified women were in need of individual psychosocial support. Five women were referred to psychiatric treatment since they needed additional support and medications. In USC, the number of GBV cases per TRC (Borici and Sedra) varied from 25-31 cases, since the women were frequently departing for onward movement. Taking into consideration frequent departures and restrictions of movement which were imposed in USC, women and girls were under increased pressure and frequently expressed feelings of helplessness, frustration and general mental health condition of women visibly deteriorated.

An ongoing challenge throughout the past four months is the unavailability of appropriate space for conducting activities and psychological support to GBV survivors in TRC Borici, as the UNFPA container was

Subsidiary Protections granted in August, 20 in total granted in 2020

0

Recognized refugee statuses granted in 2020

3

Rejected claims in August, 34 in total in 2020

81

Terminated procedures – suspensions in August, 495 in total in 2020

2,519

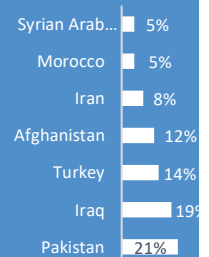
New Intentions to Seek Asylum 10,997 in total in 2020

93%

Of arriving persons are issued Attestation on the Intention to Seek Asylum in BiH in 2020

316

Asylum claims pending decision by MoS (at the end of the month). Top 6 Countries of Origin among asylum-seekers at the end of August



376

Persons awaiting registration of their asylum claim by MoS with assistance of UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH at the end of August

1,274

Legal counselling sessions by UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH in August

CHILD PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

474

rearranged for symptomatic isolation purposes. Women expressed frustration and sadness due to lack of safe space in TRC. UNFPA is continuously advocating on different levels in order to solve this issue as soon as possible, and ensure women and girls have appropriate access to essential services and safe spaces.

DRC GBV Case Manager followed-up to 20 individual cases of GBV (two cases in Sarajevo Canton and one in Tuzla Canton). **Five new GBV cases were identified and followed up during the month in USC.** DRC continued following up and supporting GBV survivors who were relocated outside of USC and ensured accommodation and provided PSS and empowerment support. For one of the two cases, support has been provided in cooperation with LNGO Puz. DRC and Zene sa Une, in partnership with UNHCR, continued providing safe accommodation for GBV survivors in USC and other extremely vulnerable cases identified by partner organizations. **The Safe House run by Zene sa Une is the only currently available shelter for GBV survivors in the country. Seven persons were supported with accommodation in the safe house.** UNHCR/BHWI newly identified one SGBV case, conducted one reactive SGBV counselling and 12 preventive individual counselling sessions, as well as three SGBV workshops aimed at raising awareness on potential risks and dangers that might occur during migration, ways of protection and self-protection. BHWI also conducts regular monitoring of one previously identified SGBV case.

Psychosocial Support

With an increased number of women in need of PSS support, **UNFPA has supported vulnerable women and girls in Sarajevo and USC through a total number of 280 different PSS interventions including individual, group sessions and crises interventions.** Out of which, 81 were individual psychological support sessions conducted by psychotherapists in Centres for Women and Girls. UNFPA identified that most unaccompanied children who were accommodated in Red hangar in TRC Usivak were in a state of constant anxiety and tension; the majority showed insecure feeling due to thefts that occur occasionally.

Psychosocial group topics were adapted to the identified needs and different age groups of women and girls. In August, there was a frequent turnover of women and girls accommodated in TRCs in USC and Sarajevo Canton, including vulnerable categories. GBV survivors continued to attempt onward movement, which reduced the possibility of providing continuous support to them. It was noticed that women were coming back with deteriorated mental conditions and expressing a high need for psychological support. In USC, 12 crises interventions were conducted in order to support vulnerable cases, including GBV survivors with triggered suicidal ideations, PTSD symptoms etc. Nine women reported experiencing pushbacks to UNFPA, out of which four women stated it was a violent pushback.



UNHCR/BHWI team in Tuzla provides psychosocial assistance, referral to available services and information on access to the asylum system in BiH.

BHWI outreach team psychologist and translator carried out monitoring activities at the borders and in other areas of BiH (Tuzla Canton, Kalesija, Zvornik, Bijeljina) and provided psychosocial support to 172 migrants and asylum-seekers. BHWI provided psychosocial assistance and support to a total of 873 beneficiaries from vulnerable categories, and 902 psychosocial counselling and interventions. Psychosocial assistance was provided in cooperation with CSR, MS, Service for Foreigners, Police, Health Institutions, Schools, IOM and WV to 263 UASC in TRC Ušivak, of

which 89 are under the care of BHWI guardians. BHWI continues activities on development and maintenance of adequate level of social functioning among UASC that allows them to adapt to current life circumstances.

Durable solutions

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)

BiH is the only country in the Western Balkans region that managed to resume AVRR departures following COVID-19 outbreak. **In August, there were 12 departures** (six to Pakistan, four to Tunisia, two to Egypt). Furthermore, 6,580 migrants were reached by IOM AVRR outreach staff in BiH (3,736 outside centres and 2,844 in centres). IOM's AVRR outreach team was present in all TRCs even during the lockdown, promoting migrants' rights and informed decision making by providing migrant families and individuals interested in voluntarily returning to their country of origin with information and counselling relevant to their decision. Awareness raising efforts and information dissemination increased and AVRR is sharing information related to COVID-19, in accordance with WHO developed guidelines. Information also include data on mobility restrictions and can be accessed on web page developed for [AVRR information campaign](#).



AVRR counselors in TRC Blazuj, IOM

Unaccompanied or Separated Children in BiH at the end of the month

21%

of UASC are boys, 15 years of age or younger

1,005

Protection assistances to UASC provided by UNHCR/BHWI in August

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

902

Number of PSS interventions provided by UNHCR/BHWI in August 2020

196

MHPSS consultations in TRCs provided by DRC in August to a total of **478** direct beneficiaries

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Key Gaps:

- New NFI shipments were received at TRCs at the end of August with various items and sizes as requested by migrants and asylum-seekers.

Key Achievements:

- IOM carefully planned the number and type of NFIs in order to ensure sufficient numbers of items, especially sizes for UASC in TRC Sedra.

IOM provides NFIs for newly arriving migrants and asylum-seekers in all TRCs/ETC. An NFI distribution system is in place and operational with set schedules displaying distribution times. IOM provides NFI welcome kits, after which individual NFI refills are provided. NFIs include items such as clothing, footwear, hygiene products, clean bed sheets and linen upon arrival and for those undertaking scabies treatment, or other medical cases as per need. The NFIs also include packages to hospitalized migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers which contains pyjamas, slippers, a towel and other items necessary for hospital stays; and specially prepared baby packages, and other items according to their needs. Also, all new arrivals who are in the pre-registration waiting to be screened are provided with hygiene packages (including soap, shampoo, shower gel, toilet paper, tissues) as well as clothes if needed.

During the reporting month, a total of 97,588 individual items were distributed to 7,463 persons inside the TRCs. In addition to these, donations in NFIs during the reporting month included: 129 hygiene packages, 563 mattresses and 120 bed linens from Islamic Relief BiH. Clothes and shoes for children 2-3 years old were donated by Red Cross and 40 blankets were distributed by DRC for those in the isolation area (symptomatic).

Since there were previous issues with the sizes of clothing provided, IOM placed focus on carefully planning the number and type of NFIs, in order to have sufficient numbers of items at all times, especially sizes for UASC in TRC Sedra. New NFI shipments were received at the end of the month.



Distribution of food and hygiene packages for vulnerable individuals, UNHCR/BHWI

Through the Centre for Women and Girls, as well as the Boys and Young Men Centre, UNFPA continues to distribute modern contraceptives and hygienic products regularly and as per identified needs. In August, UNFPA distributed 188 specially tailored dignity kits adapted to the identified need of women and girls in Sarajevo and Una Sana Canton.



UNHCR/BHWI distributed **63 food and hygiene packages; 56 hygiene packages; and 120 pieces of clothing, footwear and underwear** to vulnerable individuals.

DRC Outreach Protection Teams during the month of August provided energy saving food supplies and emergency non-food items for the most vulnerable migrants and asylum-seekers (including families, UASC and single adult males) identified in the pushback areas or disembarkation points in USC, as well as migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in inadequate accommodation outside of TRCs throughout BiH. In total, 8,255 assistances through distribution of emergency food and non-food items were provided.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Key Gaps:

- Lack of water and sewage system in ETC Lipa.
- Lack of hot water in showers and toilets in TRCs Bira and Blazuj.

Key Achievements:

- Works on a wastewater piping system started in ETC Lipa at the end of the month, and the trenches were dug outside the perimeter of the camp.

Site Development Highlights

In order to maintain WASH services according to the minimum SPHERE standards, IOM dedicates significant efforts to maintenance and repair, particularly of WASH containers and infrastructure, as damages occur frequently in all TRCs. Regular repairs and replacements include sink faucets, toilet tanks and pipes, shower faucets, flushers and water taps. Six TRCs have functional laundry systems for washing TRC bedding/sheets and personal belongings of the centre's population, while works on the laundry system in ETC Lipa are ongoing.

TRC Borići has 21 toilets and 16 showers inside the building and 19 toilets and 28 showers outside the building (in sanitary containers), with facilities separated by sex. Hot water and drinking water are available in the centre. Six washing machines and six dryers are installed and operational.

TRC Bira has 156 toilets and 77 showers. Facilities are separated by sex and drinking water is available in the centre. Caritas is also involved in the provision of laundry services in TRC Bira.

TRC Miral has 64 toilets and 34 showers. Out of which five toilets and five showers are separated only for UASC. Drinking water is available in the centre.

In ETC Lipa, there are 57 toilets, 36 showers and 24 concrete sinks, for personal hygiene and access to drinking water. After a long wait and lobbying with the municipality for fulfilment of the agreement to install a wastewater disposal system, at the end of August, the contractor started works on a wastewater piping system by digging trenches outside the camps perimeter. Once the works are finished, ETC Lipa will have 22 sanitary containers with 102 toilets. Furthermore, challenges remained with lack of potable water throughout August. Although ETC Lipa receives 7,000 litres of water in tanks on a daily basis, the issue is that the local company JP Vodovod does not have sufficient number of cisterns to deliver requested quantities of water tanks for one day. IOM night shift distributed bottled water to migrants and asylum-seekers during one of the nights, since there was a shortage of water due to the water pump on the spring not working. Issues with insufficient water capacity from the water spring are exacerbated on warm days and water tanks from local water company (JP Vodovod Bihac d.o.o.) has on several occasions had issues delivering.

TRC Sedra has 49 toilets and 62 private showers for 163 people. The remaining TRC population has access to shared toilets and showers, separated by sex. Drinking water is available in the centre. TRC population contributes to laundry operations on a voluntary basis.



5,640

persons assisted with laundry



165

toilets available in TRCs/ETC



176

showers available in TRCs/ETC

TRC Ušivak has 47 toilets and 36 showers and facilities are separated by sex. Hot water and drinking water are available at the centre. Two sanitary containers previously donated by the Baptist Church were connected to the water and sewage system in July. IOM maintenance installed platform access for wheelchair at the sanitary toilet for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, DRC donated an additional industrial washing machine and a dryer.

TRC Blažuj has 50 toilets and 50 showers. Hot water and drinking water are available. IOM continues to support disinfection, deratization and disinsection measures in all TRCs in USC. Disinfections are organized weekly, while disinsections take place monthly, and deratization take place every three months.

Key Gaps:

- As requested by migrants from India during community representative meetings, more meals without beef should be prepared in TRC Blazuj.
- The activities of the open kitchen in TRC Bira, had to be suspended, due to the proximity of the kitchen is to the COVID-19 quarantine area.

Key Achievements:

- The works for the fireplace in TRC Blazuj for migrants/asylum-seekers to cook their own food were completed and fully operational by 17 August.

Meal distributions in centres

IOM and partners (Red Cross in USC/RRC Salakovac; and Pomozi.ba in SC) continued to support the provision of three meals and two fruit snacks per day. Meals are prepared in line with international standards that guarantee sufficient nutritional calorie intake. In August, IOM and partners provided a total of 364,236 meals, out of which 202,955 meals were distributed in USC, 157,901 in SC and 3,380 in RRC Salakovac.

Improvements based on community feedback

In USC, upon the request of the centres' population, IOM ensured that open kitchens were fully equipped so that migrants/asylum-seekers can prepare their own food if they wish. In August, in order to reduce persons gathering in groups, the community kitchen in TRC Bira was closed until further notice after seven COVID-19 positive cases were identified in the TRC. In order to increase satisfaction of food among migrants/asylum-seekers, all TRCs/ETC continued to measure satisfaction with meals by conducting surveys daily, in terms of quality and quantity offered. As a result, IOM is continuously making amendments to respond to migrants and asylum-seekers requests. Salty and sweet purees which are being made for babies in TRCs Sedra and Borici as regular practice are now introduced in TRC Usivak as well. TRC Usivak procured additional plastic pots for take away food for migrants and asylum-seekers who are not able to come to the dining room, their food is brought to their accommodation. Furthermore, the Food Focal Point from TRC Miral in coordination with DRC, developed a 10-day menu for persons with special dietary needs due to diabetes. Moreover, IOM provided additional groceries for cooking to those persons who wanted to prepare Eid meals themselves.



Food for migrants/asylum-seekers in the isolation area in TRC Sedra, IOM



Food for migrants/asylum-seekers in isolation areas, IOM

Persons with special dietary requirements

In all TRCs, IOM provides specialized food to migrants in need of specific dietary requirement upon a doctor's recommendation/medical prescription and to those who are vegetarians, such as gluten-free, diabetes diet, etc, as well as food without beef to the Hindu population, following their request.

Infant and Young Child Feeding

UNICEF, in partnership with Fenix and World Vision, continued providing individual support to pregnant women and mothers by operating the Mother Baby Corners (MBC) in TRCs in USC as well as RRC Salakovac. MBC provided parents with IYCF counselling and awareness raising on breastfeeding and in cooperation with IOM distributed food and NFIs to mothers. MBC provided three workshops in cooperation with DRC on personal and baby hygiene, importance of pediatric examinations, and development of motor skills of babies. In August, 100 parents, 119 children under five, and 11 pregnant women benefitted from MBC services. More than 1,800 individual services were provided to mothers and children. UNICEF in partnership with Fenix and World Vision, continued providing individual support to mothers, pregnant women and children, and in cooperation with IOM continued distributing NFI and FI to mothers and children, under the supervision of MBC Staff. IOM provided babies below 24 months with special complementary food which is prepared by Red Cross in line with UNICEF's guidelines on child feeding. During August, 1,043 complementary meals were distributed for 90 babies and 414 baby formulas were distributed for 52 babies, and more than 5,000 FIs and NFIs were distributed through MBCs in USC and SC.



364,236

Meals distributed by IOM and partners



Community kitchens
operational in all TRCs/ETC



414
portions of baby formula
distributed for 21 babies

Key Gaps:

- Lack of established SRH SOP between relevant actors.
- Migrants and asylum-seekers remain vulnerable to catching COVID-19. Nine COVID-19 cases were confirmed in TRCs Miral and Bira.
- Ban on transportation and accommodation of migrants and asylum-seekers in USC made providing health assistance in outreach challenging and limited only to first aid.
- Only urgent cases were referred to SHC in BiH due to COVID-19 preventive measures and restrictions.
- For any surgical intervention, migrants and asylum-seekers are obliged to provide COVID-19 test results, which forces them to wait longer for needed interventions.

Key Achievements:

- 12,756 screenings for COVID-19 symptoms in TRC/RRC/ETCs were performed, out of which 7,381 were screenings upon entry and 26 migrants and asylum-seekers received COVID-19 testing.
- DRC in cooperation with relevant stakeholders conducted a review of technical/on-site assessment of urgent priorities, gaps and responses related to: infrastructural upgrades of health actors (COVID-19, PHC, SHC and emergency); equipment (specialized medical devices) and furnishing of COVID-19 essential facilities; provision of PPE to responders in institutions; and outreach and inspection services.
- 108 children from TRCs Sedra and Miral received immunizations.
- 76 children and parents were reached with awareness raising materials on immunization, out of which 68 parents were counselled on the importance of immunizations.

COVID-19 activities and measures undertaken

As of 19 August, **preventive isolation was re-established in TRCs/ETC in USC** by order of the Crisis Board of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Policy USC, according to which all migrants and asylum-seekers returning from onward movement attempts and who are admitted back into the reception centers must be in self-isolation for seven days. The total capacity for isolation area increased to 212 beds, while the COVID-19 quarantine reached 345 beds in TRCs. At the end of the month, there were 133 migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in COVID-19 quarantine in USC TRCs/ETC and 22 cases of migrants and asylum-seekers exhibiting symptoms isolated in symptomatic isolation, seven in TRC Miral, 11 in TRC Bira and four in ETC Lipa.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare

During August, in seven temporary medical units within reception centres in USC, SC and HNC, a total of 11,971 examinations were performed. In the medical units, there were 3,478 direct medical interventions performed by PHC medical teams in coordination with DRC. In addition, 10,798 migrants and asylum-seekers were medically attended directly by DRC staff. DRC implementing partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) provided assistance/medical escorts to 793 patients through 592 medical accompaniments to primary and secondary care facilities in USC, SC and HNC.

Medical Assistance outside TRCs

With migrants and asylum-seekers stranded in Bosanska Otoka and Velecevo, increased number of migrants and asylum-seekers squatting around TRCs and high number of migrants and asylum-seekers in other out-of-site locations, coupled with deteriorating physical conditions of migrants and asylum-seekers, and exposure to deteriorating weather conditions, **need for medical assistance outside TRCs is rising**. DRC Medical Assistant in Tuzla coordinated with other partners on the ground and followed up on medical cases, regularly visited key spots and shelters and completed 59 direct medical interventions. USC Outreach Medical Officer performed 183 interventions to migrants and asylum-seekers stranded at the disembarkation checkpoint, in front of TRCs and in other out-of-site locations. During the month of August, Red Cross Outreach Teams, working in partnership with DRC, assisted 4,830 migrants and asylum-seekers, through 4,574 first aid assistances and 3,096 PSS first aid consultations. All violent pushback cases reported to or observed by DRC and PHC medical teams were provided with first aid and other health care services, based on their needs and conditions.

Paediatric Healthcare

UNICEF, through its partnership with DRC, is providing health care services for children, including the provision of paediatric services in paediatric infirmaries in TRCs Sedra and Borići, and provision of dental and ophthalmological services for children. The medical team comprising a paediatrician and a paediatric nurse provided **209 expert paediatric services for 198 child patients in need of medical assistance and counselling, including:** paediatric check-ups, counselling sessions on personal hygiene, dental services and ophthalmological services. UNICEF/DRC MA conducted series of workshops on recommendations for protection against COVID-19 in all TRCs, including individual consultations with 28 families with children, and workshops on personal hygiene and hygiene of the space they reside in. In August, a total of 16 parents were counselled on the importance of immunizations, five children were supported with dental care, and one child with ophthalmological care. With a high turnover of beneficiaries in TRCs, this affects the cycle of medical examinations, immunizations and also preschool medical examinations as some children



Vaccination of UASC in TRC Miral, UNICEF/DRC



Workshop for UASC in TRC Sedra on COVID-19 prevention, UNICEF/DRC

and their parents leave the TRC during the process, or prior going to the appointment with the doctor specialist at the Primary Health Center or Cantonal Hospital.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

UNFPA gynaecologists in SC and USC supported women and girls through conducting SRH Info Sessions, 113 women and two girls participated. The preventive and educational themes were adapted to the identified needs of women and girls and mostly included: recognition and prevention of vaginal infections as well as family planning, etc. Upon identification of women in need of further treatment, in cooperation with local Health Care Centres in SC and USC, 21 gynaecological examinations were performed with support of UNFPA Women empowerment officers speaking Arabic and Farsi. This included gynaecological examinations for four pregnant women. Through DRC, a total of 10 pregnant women were followed up on. Required reproductive health care services were regularly delivered to female population in USC, SC and HNC.



Individual SRH session with UNFPA gynaecologist, UNFPA

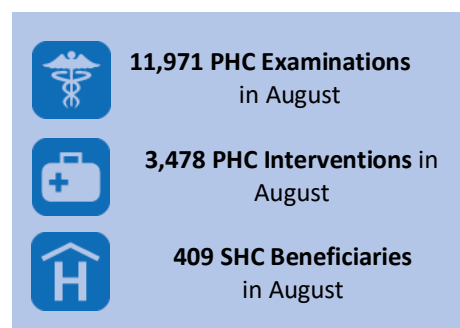
Mental Healthcare services

A total of 39 consultations and appropriate treatments were conducted by DRC staff in the field of mental health and psychosocial support. During the reporting period, migrants and asylum-seekers reported high levels of anxiety and despair due to the developments in USC. The pressure of COVID-19 and the restrictions imposed by authorities in USC are taking a toll on the mental health of migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in TRCs/ETC. Most of them report that the stakes are even higher due to the uncertainty of the possibility to re-enter the TRCs/ETC. This leads to development of symptoms such as hopelessness, despair and depression.

A DRC contracted neuropsychiatrist completed 81 examinations to a group of migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in target TRCs. DRC implementing partner, Médecins du Monde (MdM), continued implementing MHPSS activities for the adult male population with the aim to improve the mental health conditions of migrants and asylum-seekers through: PSS and early detection with empowerment and psychoeducational (coping mechanisms, stress management, etc.) group activities; psychoeducational group sessions; individual/group mental health support; and referral/follow-up to adequate institutions/organizations when needed and case management. DRC/MdM assisted 393 new direct beneficiaries, 155 mental health consultations were conducted. In addition, 148 group empowerment sessions were conducted in seven TRCs for a total of 955 participants.

In August, UNICEF in partnership with MdM continued to provide MHPSS for UASC and children in families in TRCs in USC. UNICEF/MdM MHPSS team conducted individual and psychosocial group sessions with UASC and children from families. The most frequent complaints presented by children accessing individual counselling sessions were anxiety related symptoms, sleeping issues and mood disorder related symptoms. These symptoms are the reflection of overall instability and unpredictability of the situation inside and outside of the TRCs. A total of 66 individual and 44 psychosocial group sessions were conducted. Topics treated in the group sessions were related to: recognizing different emotions; accepting and expressing different feelings; belonging to a group and participating in the community; individual differences and the value of working together; identity, personal qualities and goals; self-acceptance and self-compassion; building psychological resilience and coping skills; and anger management; etc. In total 136 children were reached through MHPSS, including 94 UASC in TRCs in USC.

Working with children in families, UNICEF/MdM MHPSS team has identified the need to work directly with the parents, given that they are the ones who, with adequate advising on parental skills, can have the greatest impact on the child's well-being and mitigation of possible mental health issues. Also, given that the parents are themselves in extremely stressful life circumstances, there are frequent cases of disturbed family dynamics, impaired attachment relationships and emotional unavailability of parents.



EDUCATION AND LEISURE

Key Gaps:

- Children older than 15 do not have access to high school education.

Key Achievements:

- An interagency MasterChef cake competition was held between UASC and single men in TRC Bira.
- A new non-formal education activity was introduced in TRCs, children are learning English through a digital platform, using tablets provided to them by UNICEF/SCI, and assisted by English teachers. A total of 142 children have already started using the Akelius Digital Language Course.
- IPSIA implemented the first activity of the project "Una Together", a Cleaning Action took place in the area of the stadium in front of TRC Borici.

Educational Activities

During the school holidays, UNHCR/BHWI continued providing educational activities through informal classes in "My School" for four school-age children (one asylum-seeker and three recognized refugees who are preparing to undertake exams for ninth grade). For persons accommodated in private accommodation in the process of integration, a Bosnian language course has started for eight people.

UNFPA continued to manage Centres for Women and Girls in USC and SC, assisting vulnerable women and girls and GBV survivors to rehabilitate and strengthen resilience through empowerment programs and life-skills education. A total number of 845 participations of women and girls were recorded through the provision of 85 various educational, awareness-raising and recreational empowerment sessions adapted to the expressed need of women and girls engaged. During the reporting period in the Centre for Boys and Young Men in USC and SC, various activities



English class in Boys and Young Men Centre in TRC Blazuj, UNFPA

were conducted including sessions based on the Boys on the Move methodology, creative workshops and English language lessons with recorded 412 participations from unaccompanied children and young men. As the situation in TRC Bira deteriorated after the confirmation of COVID-19 and ongoing tensions related to the potential closure of TRC Bira, UNFPA placed focus on awareness-raising related to hygiene and prevention methods, together with organizing activities with the aim of reducing tensions among camp



English class for women in TRC Usivak, UNFPA

residents, 71 participations were recorded. UNFPA organized cleaning and disinfection activities with unaccompanied minors, in which 35 containers were disinfected.

Occupational Activities

Under the slogan "All for all," 60 beneficiaries from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Cameroon and Somalia participated in sewing workshops in RRC Salakovac, AC Delijaš and TRC Ušivak, sewing for themselves and for others in their community through UNHCR/BHWI. This activity promotes solidarity, mutual support and understanding among beneficiaries.

Recreational Activities

In AC Delijaš, RRC Salakovac and TRC Ušivak, a total of 89 individuals participated in sports/recreational activities including: volleyball, badminton, and individual fitness exercises. For UASC in TRC Ušivak, regular volleyball matches are organized for them to spend quality time outside, t-shirts and refreshments were provided by UNHCR/BHWI. IOM organized a football match at the field of NK Jedinstvo for children up to 14 years from TRC Borici with the presence of UNHCR, SCI and legal guardians.

Movie projections and tea parties with traditional dances continue to be popular events in ETC Lipa. IPSIA continued the distribution of tea at TRC Bira at the social cafe,

HIGHLIGHTS

- 556 children participated in non-formal education activities in TRCs.
- 281 non-formal educational activities were organized for children.
- 70 parents were reached through educational workshops with parents.
- Ongoing preparations for the inclusion of children in formal education.



Football at NK Jedinstvo field with migrant/asylum-seeking children in Bihac, IOM

where 500 cups of tea are distributed from Monday to Friday, and beneficiaries can take part in recreational activities, workshops and sports activities.

During the Cleaning Action implemented by IPSIA, the beneficiaries of TRC Borici and organizations removed the garbage from the field and the surrounding area, afterwards, IPSIA offered beverages and snacks to the participants, a total of thirty participants took part in the activity.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Key Gaps:

- Dysfunctional fire alarm system in TRC Miral.
- Lack of radio devices impede field communication in TRC Usivak.

Key Achievements:

- Increased security in TRC Bira isolation area with additional security guards who prevent persons from absconding.

General Security

IOM and Security staff are present 24/7 at all TRCs/ETC, working to prevent and respond to safety and security risks and incidents. Inspections and internal investigations of thefts and misconduct of the centres' population are regularly carried out and video-surveillance or other distant monitoring mechanisms are in place in TRCs Bira, Borici, and Miral. For each centre, [IOM's Security Unit appoints a staff member to serve as Security Assistant](#). Security Assistants oversee the implementation of the Minimal Operating Security Standards and coordinating all the security procedures.

IOM continuously works on improving the security and safety measures in all TRCs by filling the gaps and recommendations. As such, in August, [three additional security guards were assigned to TRC Bira](#) to secure the isolation areas and prevent persons from absconding. Four additional first aid kits were installed in ETC Lipa and a fire protection plan was developed. TRC Sedra received two additional fire extinguishers, and TRC Miral received 10 new radio devices, which will ease communication on the field. CCTV cameras were relocated and positioned in the UASC zone, giving better overview of the zone to IOM staff and security. However, [in TRC Miral, monitoring of the isolation area still needs further strengthening](#). Some of the gaps remain, such as the need to improve the CCTV system (additional cameras needed, and some need to be repaired and replaced). In ETC Lipa, community members suggested more patrols through the night and to increase presence of security guards inside the tents during nights.

UNDSS, with the support of UNHCR, organized [two security briefing orientations for new personnel](#) of UN SMS organizations with 33 participants in total. UNDSS Team also spent one week in USC, visited all TRCs/ERC, met with relevant police officials and organized a briefing for newly appointed Security Assistants in TRCs/ERC. All TRCs in Sarajevo Canton were visited too. The current challenging situation was also discussed in the meeting with the Head of Cantonal Police in Sarajevo.

TRC incidents

Increased public tensions and unease were expressed by the local population especially in Velika Kladusa about the presence of migrants and asylum-seekers. Locals set improvised check points and allegations of physical violence, including towards migrants and asylum-seekers, was noted. Eight persons registered in [TRC Miral](#) arrived with injuries allegedly due to residents' aggressions. Moreover, two gunshots were fired next to TRC Miral, police were notified, and the person shooting was arrested. [One of the IOM maintenance staff was physically attacked by a local resident](#) (allegedly because he is working for IOM). This was reported to the police. The local population also prepared flyers with threatening content and distributed it to migrants and asylum-seekers. With regards to the above developments in the area of Velika Kladusa, the Area Security Coordinator distributed a specific Security Advisory for all UN and non-UN staff on the prevention and mitigation measures related to alleged violence on staff.

Increased attempts of irregular entries were observed in [TRC Bira](#), not only endangering security but also contributing to damages of property during break-ins. In TRC Bira, six packages of illicit drugs were found in the single men area, the USC Ministry of Interior Criminal Police Department conducted an official investigation against the migrants and asylum-seekers involved. Three individuals who were found in the same container reselling the drugs to others were arrested and taken to the police for further interrogation. Furthermore, one individual was attacked with a knife in front of the centre by another migrant/asylum-seeker. The attacker was recognized by the security guards stationed at the entrance. The victim suffered minor injuries and was transported to a hospital in Bihac.

[TRC Borici](#) is facing issues with the migrants/asylum-seekers accommodated in houses surrounding the TRC, who allegedly commit various crimes against the residents of TRC Borici. In [TRC Blazuj](#), a fire broke out, allegedly started by one of the residents. IOM staff and security started putting the fire out when the firefighters came. The person was burned and taken to the hospital by ambulance. In [TRC Sedra](#), SFA and police raided containers to look for knives or other sharp items after an altercation took place. On 26 August, approximately 60 migrants and asylum-seekers started a protest in front of [ETC Lipa](#) gate against the local police due to alleged police brutality, shouting "justice for migrants." The situation escalated with other centre dwellers joined the protest. All staff were evacuated, and a special police force was deployed. Once the situation calmed down, IOM staff returned.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

HIGHLIGHTS



608 transports were carried out for **1,458** persons

[IOM has on-call mobile teams available 24/7 for assistance and transportation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers](#) providing various types of transportation including: medical cases to hospitals; children going to school; vulnerable and injured persons to centres identified by outreach teams; asylum-seekers going to their asylum interviews; and transfers at the request of the SFA. Red Cross resumed the principal responsibility of the provision of transportation in USC, however IOM continued to provide transportation

if/when needed. In mid-August, due to the ban of transportation of migrants in USC imposed by local authorities, IOM suspended all transportation activities in the canton, except transportation for medical reasons. Therefore, the numbers were as follows: 399 to medical facilities, 22 to SFA, 73 outreach and 114 other (which also includes transportation between TRCs).

3W																				
LOCATION																				
Bosnia and Herzegovina without Una-Sana Canton										Una-Sana Canton							TOTALS			
	RRC Salakovac	AC Delijaš	TRC Ušivak	TRC Blažuj	Imm. Ctr.	Awaiting asylum in private accommodation	Outreach observed average # of people in SC	Outreach observed average # of people in TC	Outreach observed average # of people Other locations	TRC Miral	TRC Borrići	TRC Sedra	TRC Bira	ETC Lipa	Žene sa Une SH	Awaiting asylum in private accommodation	Outreach observed average # of people in USC	# of people outside in USC according to USC Police	Total in BIH Accommodated	Total in BIH Estimated
KEY POPULATION # AND ESTIMATES (Population numbers below are a mixture of estimates and counts, depending on location. The numbers below are the most recent available. It must be kept in mind that populations fluctuate daily and the below is a snapshot at the end of the month)																				
Total Number	19	7	789	2243	64	82	127	198	0	798	244	277	611	1378	6	13	2938	3500	6,531	9,800-10,300
# of males	11	4	615	2243	63	47	-	-	-	798	130	163	611	1378	5	11	-	-	6,079	
# of females	8	3	174		1	35	-	-	-	0	114	114	0	0	1	2	-	-	452	
# single adult men	0	0	88	2241	-	23	-	-	-	751	3	1	449	1378	3	4	-	-	4,941	
# of families	3	2	153	2	-	18	-	-	-	0	63	66	15	0	1	3	-	-	326	
# of children in families	8	4	198	2	1	34	-	-	-	0	100	94	14	0	2	4	-	-	461	
# of UASCs	3	0	238	0	0	0	-	-	-	47	19	37	130			0	-	-	474	
# of asylum-seekers	0	2	67	3	1	71	-	30	-	2	15	15	3	1	2	13	2	-	227	
# of persons awaiting asylum registration	19	5	160	0	0	11	-	39	-	18	22	51	26	3	1	0	21	-	376	
WHO DOES WHAT AND WHERE (3W)																				
Shelter	MHRR / MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	MoS, SFA	-	-	Puž		SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	ŽsU/D RC/ UNHCR	-				
Centre Management	MHRR / MoS/ AS	MoS/ AS	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	MoS, SFA	-	-	-		SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	ZsU	-				
Protection	UNHCR / BHWI / VP, UNICEF / WV, CSW	MoS/ AS, UNHCR / BHWI / VP, CSW	UNHCR / VP, DRC, UNICEF / WV, MdM IOM, UNFP A	UNHCR / VP, DRC, UNICEF / WV, MdM IOM, UNFP A, Save the Children	UNHCR / BHWI / VP, CSW	UNHCR / VP / BHWI	UNHCR / VP / BHWI, DRC	UNHCR / VP / BHWI, DRC	UNHCR / VP / BHWI, DRC	UNHCR / VP, DRC, UNICEF / /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFP A	UNHCR / VP, DRC, UNICEF / /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFP A/MdM	UNHCR / VP, DRC, UNICEF / /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFP A/MdM	UNHCR / VP, DRC, UNICEF / /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFP A/MdM	UNHCR / DRC, STC IOM, CSW, UNFP A/MdM	ŽsU, DRC/ VP/ UNHCR	UNHCR / VP / BHWI	DRC, UNICEF / SCI			
Health	MoS/ AS, UNHCR, DZ, CH, DRC, UNICEF	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR, DZ, CH, DRC	UNICEF, DRC, DZ, CH, UNFP A	DRC, RC, DZ, CH	SFA, DZ	-	DRC, RC	DRC, RC	DRC, RC	DRC, DZ, CH, JRS, MdM	DRC, JRS, MdM, UNICEF, F, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, MdM, UNICEF, F, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, MdM, UNICEF, F, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, MdM, DZ, CH	DRC, DZ, CH	-	DRC, RC			
Non-food items	IOM, RC, UNHCR / BHWI, UNICEF, WV	MOS/ AS/ UNHCR / BHWI, Caritas	IOM, Pomozi.ba UNHCR / BH WL, UNICEF / WV, UNFP A	IOM, Pomozi.ba UNICEF / WV, RC, DRC	MoS/ SFA	-	DRC	DRC	DRC	CoBR C, IOM, DRC, UNICEF	CoBR C, IOM, UNFP A, UNICEF / StC/ Fenix	IOM, UNFP A, UNICEF / StC/ Fenix	CoBR C, IOM, UNICEF / StC/ CSW, UNFP A, DRC	IOM, DRC, RC	ŽsU	-	DRC, RC			
WASH	MHRR MOS, UNHCR / BHWI, UNICEF, WV	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	IOM	IOM	MoS/ SFA	Caritas	Pomozi.ba			IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM, Caritas	IOM, DRC	ŽsU	-				
Security/Safety	MHRR / UNHCR	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	-	N/A			MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA, IOM	ŽsU	-				
Transport/Logistics	MHRR UNHCR / BHWI, IOM	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR / BHWI, IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	-	-	-		IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	ŽsU, IOM	-				

Administrative/ Legal	MHRR / MoS/ SFA/ AS, UNHC R/VP	MoS/ AS/ UNHC R/VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHC R/VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHC R/VP	MoS/S FA, UNHC R/VP	VP	-	-	-	-	MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHC R/ VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHC R/ VP	MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHC R/ VP	MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHC R/ VP	MoS/S FA, IOM, UNHC R/VP	ŽsU, VP	VP				
Education	UNHC R/ BHWI, UNICE F/WW	MoS/ AS/ UNHC R/ BHWI	UNICE F, WV	WV	-	-	-	-	-	-	UNICE F/ STC/N GO LAN, MoE, IOM	UNICE F/ STC/N GO LAN, MoE, IOM, IPSIA	UNICE F/ STC/N GO LAN, MoE, IOM, CWS, IPSIA		UNICE F/ STC/ MoE, IOM	-					
Food and nutrition	RC, IOM, UNICE F/ WV, UNHC R/ BHWI, Caritas	MoS/S A/ UNHC R, Caritas	Pomo zi.ba, IOM UNICE F/WW	Pomo zi.ba, IOM	MoS/S FA	-	Caritas, DRC		DRC	IOM/ CRC	IOM/ CoBR C, UNICE F/ Fenix/ STC	IOM/C RC, UNICE F/ Fenix/ STC	IOM/ CoBR C UNICE F/ /STC	IOM/C oBRC	ŽsU	-		DRC, RC			

Acronyms: AS, Asylum Sector / BHWI, Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative / CH, Cantonal Hospital / CoBRC, City of Bihać Red Cross / CRC, Cantonal Red Cross / CRS, Catholic Relief Services / CSW, Centre for Social Welfare (Municipal) / CT, The Czech Team / CWS, Church World Service / DZ, Public Health Centre (Municipal) / DRC, Danish Refugee Council / HoA, House of All / ICRC, International Committee of the Red Cross / IPSIA, Istituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione Acli / Emmaus, International Forum of Solidarity-Emmaus / IOM, International Organization for Migration / JRS, Jesuit Refugee Services / MHRR, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees / MoE, Ministry of Education / MoS, Ministry of Security / MdM, Médecins du Monde / RC, Red Cross / RCSBiH, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina / SFA, Service for Foreigners' Affairs / SoS, SoS Children's Villages / UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund / UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees / UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund / VP, Vaša Prava BiH / WHO, World Health Organization / WV, World Vision / ŽsU, Žene sa Une

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LINKS

UNHCR Data Portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

UNHCR Help: <https://help.unhcr.org/bosniaandherzegovina/>

IOM Data Portal: <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>

IOM Support for Migrants Application: <http://supportformigrants.com/>

IOM AVRR Information: <https://bih.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return>

IOM Migration Response: <https://bih.iom.int/iom-migration-response>

Media guidelines: <https://bih.iom.int/pbn/reporting-migration-and-refugees-brochure>

Asylum Information Brochure: https://issuu.com/unhcrsee/docs/information_for_as_in_bih



UNHCR prepares these monthly updates on behalf of the inter-agency response in BiH. They are published on the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina website. Information on the actions of institutions/organizations/individuals are collected on voluntary basis. The asylum-seeker and migration statistics presented in this document are provided by the authorities of BiH and partner agencies. The UN in BiH is not responsible for the accuracy of information provided by non-UN sources.