



Tents set up by BiH Army in Provisional Camp Lipa, © IOM 2021



670

New arrivals in January 2020
(source: MoS BiH)



5,880

Persons in formal centres
(source MoS, MHRR, IOM, UNHCR)



2,500-2,700

Persons assisted outside
(source DRC, local authorities)

POPULATION OVERVIEW

Accommodated and Assisted at the end of January 2021

73%

Single adult males

19%

Families with children

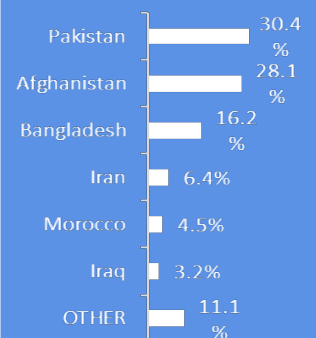
9%

Women and girls

8%

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Top declared Countries of Origin of migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers accommodated in BiH at the end of January 2021



Arrivals

670 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in January, including 7 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), according to authorities: a 24% decrease compared to the total number of arrivals in January 2020 (882), which was pre-COVID. 70,083 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

Presence in BiH at the end of the month

5,880 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of January, while 2,500-2,700 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mainly in Una-Sana Canton including more than 900 at the Lipa site. Among those people in reception facilities, some 73% are single adult males, 19% are families with children and about 8% are UASC.

January highlights

At the end of the reporting period, around 900 single adult males were sheltered at the Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa in 30 tents set up by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), as a response after the closure of the Emergency Tent Camp Lipa. Migrants and asylum seekers were assisted daily by IOM, and other humanitarian actors, under the supervision of the BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

Humanitarian partners and local authorities managed to provide basic amenities, such as electricity, heating, and water. The 30 established tents were equipped with wooden flooring, beds, blankets and heated with portable heaters. Furthermore, generators and fuel for lighting and heating have been provided by IOM, and the tents were connected to electricity. Nevertheless, conditions remained difficult due to overcrowding in tents, inclement winter weather and surrounding minefields. IOM and other humanitarian partners also continued to provide technical support to improve the living conditions in the provisional camp and capacitate the Service of Foreign Affairs (SFA) on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) tasks. At the end of the month SFA started with registration of migrants and asylum seekers in PC Lipa, whereby IOM provided technical support for process of registration and provision of ID cards and further provided technical equipment (such as printers, laptops, camera, and laminating machine) for the



Dining tent from Red Cross and IPSIA in PC Lipa, © IPSIA 2021

Construction work for the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa, approved by BiH Council of Ministers on 30 December 2020, started, with an estimated duration of three to four months, depending on weather conditions.

Given the dire situation for migrants and asylum seekers, IOM together with all partner agencies continued to advocate to find sustainable solutions and pushed for authorities to take charge of the processing and accommodation of migrants. On the last week of January, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Ambassador, Drahoslav Štefánek, conducted a week-long mission to BiH involving meetings with various actors and visits to TRCs in Una-Sana and Sarajevo Cantons to assess the situation of refugees and migrants, including particularly vulnerable groups.

Similarly, several other meetings were held to discuss the migration situation in BiH: on 12 January, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH, Milorad Dodik to discuss the humanitarian conditions of hundreds of migrants in the country and called on BiH authorities to work on sustainable solutions and more evenly distribute the migrant centres across the country. However, on that occasion, Republika Srpska (RS) unwillingness to host new migrants' centres on its territory was reiterated. I

On January 15, the Lead Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European External Action Service, Peter Stano, reminded BiH authorities of the negative impact that the unresolved situation regarding the hundreds of migrants stranded in Bosnia's northwest without adequate accommodation could have on the country's aspirations to join the European Union and more in general on BiH's image at international level.

Furthermore, the ban on the use of public transportation for migrants and asylum seekers within the Una-Sana Canton remained in force during the month of January, with exceptions provided for individuals that travel outside the Canton and/or for medical purposes.

In response to a proposal to amend the Law on Foreigners which would weaken the principle of non-refoulement by allowing for exceptions in cases of crimes of a non-serious nature, UNHCR submitted a letter to the Speaker of the House



IOM capacitating Service for Foreigners' Affairs on registration process © IOM 2021

and the Deputy Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives, reminding them BiH's obligations as signatories to the Geneva Convention. Despite UNHCR advocacy, the proposal was adopted on 11 January and will now be considered by the House of Peoples, although no date has yet been set. UNHCR followed-up with a formal letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to be shared with the Chair of the House of Peoples.

Protection and health risks of migrants and asylum seekers residing in the TRCs are further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which contributed to the increased tensions amongst the migrants and asylum seekers population, highlighting the risks of community violence and the increase of mental health concerns of the residing population by all protection and health actors.

Finally, of the people residing outside the formal centres, Save the Children (SCI) estimates that children account for 5-7% of the total number, among which unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remain unidentified, undocumented, without the assignment of legal guardian and provision of services.



Overview of Provisional Camp Lipa © IOM 2021



Outreach activities in USC © IOM 2021

CENTRE COORDINATION AND CENTRE MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Camp Coordination and Camp Management meetings were regularly organized with all partner agencies including the SFA. In January, in TRC Blazuj, discussion focused on the decision to establish a dedicated tent for social activities for migrants and asylum seekers; the appointment of a focal point for victims of crises and conflicts by Medicine du Monde (MdM) that will work 24/7; Bosnia and Herzegovina Women Initiative (BHWI), partner of UNCHR, to provide Psychosocial support (PSS) in the centre. In TRC Sedra, discussions focused on the need to organize additional leisure activities to distract migrants at the occurrence of natural events, such as earthquakes, that were recurrent in the month of January. In TRC Miral, partners discussed the set-up of two tents for preventive isolation, with wooden floor and electricity and the establishment of a Child Protection Working Group. In TRC Ušivak, IOM organized a meeting with mothers with babies, at the presence of UNICEF, to inform them and receive feedback on the new WASH facility.

Participation and Accountability to Affected Populations

IOM encourages the centre population to play an active role in decision-making process and activities that affect them. *TRCs have Community Representative Councils* and regular meetings are organized by IOM with partner agencies. These serve as a platform for discussion of TRC issues, conflict prevention and resolution, dialogues between different migrant groups and between the centre population and centre management. For instance, in January, in TRC Borići, the Community representatives expressed dissatisfaction on insufficient amount of hot water for both male and female showers. IOM and partner agencies explained that even though water boilers are in function, due to a high demand hot water might be insufficient; representatives also suggested to organize foreign language classes for adults, and to use the dining hall for cooking from 16 until 18, daily. In TRC Sedra, main discussion points were the insufficient number of bathrooms/toilets for shared rooms according to migrants, which IOM increased in the last week of the reporting period. Lastly, representatives requested partner agencies to have info session on legal aid, asylum procedure, etc.



The Boys' Voice Parliament Meeting with Adolescent boys representatives © UNFPA 2021

Furthermore, *Boys Parliament meetings* are organized in TRC Sedra, Borići and Ušivak to ensure that UASC views and needs are considered and discussed. In TRC Ušivak, meeting was held with the presence of World Vision, UNICEF, UNFPA and IOM. Main point discussed was the low attendance rate among UASC in educational activities noticed by UNICEF and UNFPA. UASC replied that many of them are illiterate and are not able to follow education activities. In this regard, UNICEF announced to start a poll on UASC literacy and specific interests in other vocational activities.

Centres population also participate in various activities in and outside of the TRCs. During the reporting month, due to low



FGD among partners to discuss on Child-friendly leaflet for UASC, UNCHR, UNICEF, SCI © 2021

temperatures, snow and ice, IOM staff and partner agencies together with migrants and asylum seekers from all TRCs conducted cleaning initiatives. They removed snow and ice, distributed salt and sand to avoid ice formation.

Centre residents 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 and were operational in all TRCs during the month of January. In TRC Miral, feedback was received to increase the accommodation capacity and to provide additional laundry and WASH services. On this regard, IOM took immediate action and increased capacity by 40 bunk beds, ordered new water boilers, and transferred three washing machines from Bira warehouse. In TRC Sedra, through the Feedback and Complaint Committee meeting, migrants expressed their desire for additional garbage bags.

PROTECTION

Asylum and Registration

During the reporting period a high turnover of residents of the two government-run centres (AC Delijaš and RRC Salakovac), due to lack of access to the asylum procedure, remoteness, and absence of internet (in AC Delijaš) were registered. Furthermore, UNHCR-led Focus Group Discussion with UASCs in USC revealed that the time-consuming asylum application procedures is the major contributing factor to irregular forward movements with the assistance of smugglers/traffickers, despite harsh weather conditions and known dangers. In fact, the Sector for Asylum continues to conduct very limited activities, only registering 12 persons and conducting 3 RSD interviews during the month of January.



Family reunification in the Netherlands, UNHCR © 2021

Child Protection

The lack of accommodation capacities for, at least 600 UASC remains one of the key issues in BiH. Cold weather significantly aggravates the situation and poses an additional risk to the health and well-being of children outside the TRCs. Another identified gap in the TRCs care system is the need to establish an adequate system of professional support and assistance for UASC with neuro psychiatric diagnosis. In January, UNFPA identified four adolescents with increased



UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH lawyer providing legal counseling in TRC Sedra, UNHCR ©2021

HIGHLIGHTS

490

persons awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava

677

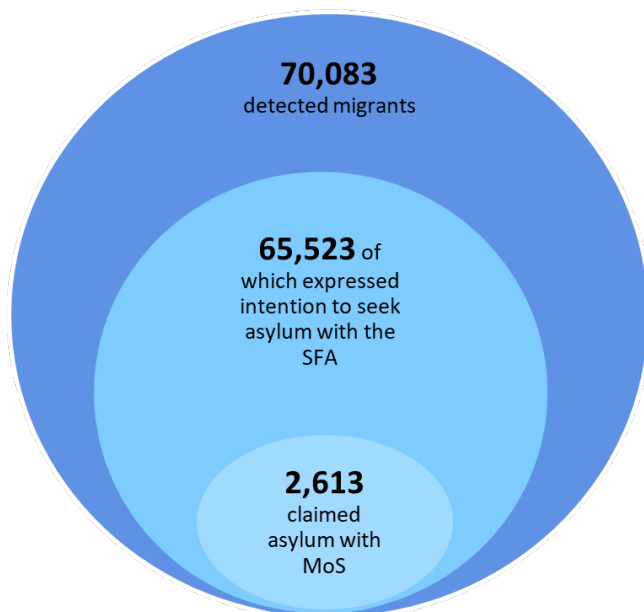
core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/ BHWI to asylum-seekers

81

guardianships assigned to UASC by Centres for Social Welfare, directly and in partnership with SCI, World Vision, and CWS, through UNICEF support

73

UASC accommodated in CCY (51 from USC, 4 from Tuzla, and 18 from Sarajevo)



UNHCR, Asylum procedure 2018-2021

vulnerabilities while followed-up eight previously identified cases. In order to elaborate a draft child friendly brochure on access to asylum system in BiH, and in close cooperation with UNICEF, UNHCR organized Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with UASCs in TRC Sedra, TRC Borići and TRC Ušivak. Moreover, in January, upon advocacy from SCI, SFA will enhance registration capacities in PC Lipa and ensure presence of a legal guardian upon identification of UASC. In TRC Blažuj while SCI and IOM ensured three containers for the most vulnerable, currently hosting 24 children, the constant number of UASC continued to fluctuate between 70 to 80 daily, marking that there is a urgent need of safe shelter, services, and registration by SFA.

Based on beneficiaries' expressed interest and identified needs, UNFPA organized two sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health for adult male family members in TRC Sedra and Borici. In TRC Blažuj, UNFPA stepped up its sessions on personal hygiene and adapted the session contents to respond to the current situation in terms of low winter temperatures, number of WASH facilities and availability of hot water.

Gender-based Violence

In January, 33 cases of GBV were identified in Sarajevo and Una Sana Canton through UNFPA. All newly identified cases, in accordance with their informed consent and needs, were provided with psychosocial support and included in empowerment activities. Total number of GBV cases being followed up was 146. Moreover, DRC GBV Specialist followed up on 32 open cases on a weekly basis, with two new cases recorded in January. Prevailing concerns among survivors followed up during the reporting period were related to fragile mental health. In addition, DRC continued providing alternative accommodation for two GBV survivors in Sarajevo Canton. UNFPA GBV Case manager held five regular series of trainings on prevention and respond to gender-based violence for 22 women and 15 adolescent boys in TRC Ušivak, and 15 young men and 18 adolescent boys in TRC Blažuj, while in the same period, UNHCR/BHWI implemented 24 SGBV relevant activities in SC and HNC. Lastly, in January, UNFPA developed guidelines for the prevention and protection against gender-

HIGHLIGHTS

35
new cases of GBV were identified and assisted in Sarajevo and Una Sana Canton through UNFPA

178
GBV cases received follow-up by UNFPA GBV Case Managers

1,501
persons on average identified sleeping in informal accommodation in BiH, mostly in USC.

based violence in crisis situation which was adopted by the respective authorities of Sarajevo Canton.

Outreach

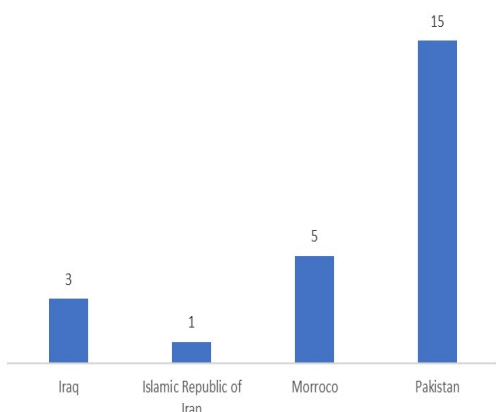
Restriction of movement in USC and ban to use of public transportation for migrants and asylum seekers and within the Canton remained into force, except in the event that people travel outside the Canton. In January, DRC Protection teams compiled Protection Incident Reports and provided inputs on alleged violent pushbacks that occurred at the Croatian border. Over the month, 213 persons reported pushbacks to DRC Protection Teams. Most vulnerable cases were referred to medical assistance, MHPSS and accommodation/registration. On 16 January, through joint efforts of IOM/Red Cross Outreach Teams and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, 69 persons who stayed in a **squat** near Velika Kladuša have been successfully relocated to TRC Miral. Moreover, DRC protection outreach teams assisted 286 persons in need through protection referrals country wide. Lastly, SCI outreach teams across the country observed a significant decrease in the number of new arrivals among UASC and an increased number of UASC heading to Serbia.



Support to Gender-based violence survivor , UNFPA ©2021

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

BiH is the only country in the Western Balkans region that managed to resume AVRR departures, following the COVID-19 outbreak. In January, there were **24 departures** (15 to Pakistan, five to Morocco, three to Iraq, one to Iran), leading the total number of returns as of 2018 to 1,014. Furthermore, 2,680 migrants were reached by IOM AVRR outreach staff in



AVRR departures in January, IOM 2021

Monthly Update · January2021

BiH in January (1,216 in centres and 1,464 outside 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](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

24 Departures in January

2,680 People reached with Information on AVRR in BiH (in the centres and outreach)

SHELTER

Site improvements

Sarajevo Canton and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

The TRC Ušivak (opened in October 2018) The work on installation of a roof and a wooden canopy on the outdoor grill were finalized during January, and several heaters were installed in sanitary containers. Other ongoing work included: construction for 10 accommodation containers at the new COVID-19 isolation area (IOM maintenance made concrete slabs, and the work was then handed over to external contractor); and work on the new paediatric infirmary (old parquet was removed, heating pipes installed, and walls repainted).

The Blažuj TRC (opened in December 2019) In January, a fire broke out in Tent 3: around 95 migrants were temporarily accommodated in new accommodation units. While no injuries were registered, some power cables were ruined, and the centre was without electricity for a few hours. Maintenance work focused on repairing items that were damaged during clashes on 20 January: conjunction box, windows, doors, and tables were substituted, while destroyed beds were disassembled and recycled and/or thrown away. Other work included the installation of 111 pillars and 60 lighting fixtures in the TRC to



Renovated dining hall in TRC Sedra © IOM 2021

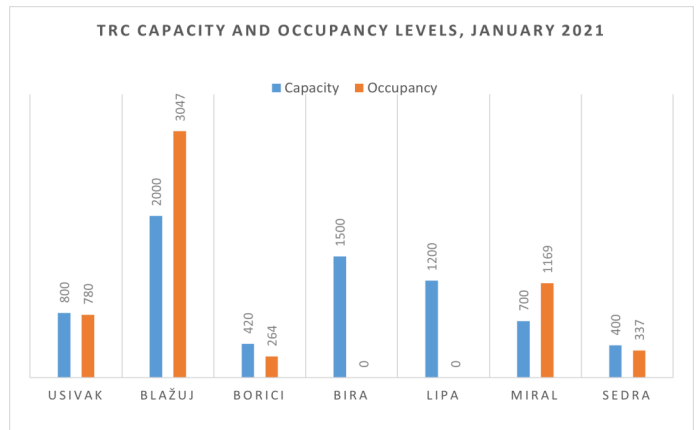
enhance security and safety of migrants and asylum seekers. An LCD TV screen was placed at the *Social Corner* for migrants to watch movies. The centre's info point was separated from the registration room and is located in a separated container equipped with furniture and ICT equipment. Lastly, due to spread of diphtheria disease in the centre, IOM temporarily dedicated a special section in the COVID-19 symptomatic isolation area for such cases.

The Salakovac Refugee Reception Centre (RRC) (opened in 2000) provides accommodation to asylum-seekers and refugees.

The Delijaš Asylum Centre (AC) (opened in 2014), in Trnovo Municipality, exclusively accommodates individuals who have sought asylum in BiH.

Una-Sana Canton

The TRC Borići (opened in January 2019) due to overload of the electric system, the use of dining hall for cooking purposes



was restricted to a maximum of two hours a day. Moreover, locations were identified where recycling containers will be installed. Lastly, a new information board with instruction on COVID-19 preventive measures was installed in the dining hall.

The TRC Miral (opened in October 2018) During the reporting period, IOM worked to increase the accommodation capacity to a total of 1,008 beds by adding 40 bunk beds from Bira to host migrants and asylum seekers and to improve their living conditions. The Covid-19 preventive isolation zone was temporarily moved to a smaller room with 20 beds to make space for regular accommodation units. Moreover, four heating canons were delivered to the centre and a new info board installed.

The TRC Sedra (opened in July 2018) In January, the highlight was the renovations in the dining hall, which included adding a parquet floor, painting the walls, changing all the tables and benches and adding a plexiglass on the food distribution desk. The installation of cables to provide centre better internet connection was finalized. Works to set up and close the terrace's *Social Corner* in TRC Sedra were finalized by IPSIA during the reporting period.

The Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa (opened in January 2021) is a temporary solution run by the SFA with the support of IOM and partner agencies with a total maximum capacity of 900 beds.

Tuzla Canton

In Tuzla urban area, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) continued to support its local partner PUZ in the management of two safe houses with capacities to host up to 50 migrants and asylum-seekers (families and vulnerable adults).



Outside terrace in front of "social corner" in TRC Sedra © IPSIA 2021

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)



Non-Food Items distribution in TRC Miral, © IOM 2021

IOM provides NFIs for newly arriving migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in all TRCs. An NFI distribution system is in place and operational with set schedules displaying distribution times. IOM provides NFI welcome kits, after which individual NFIs 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. 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 January, NFI distributions focused on winter items including blankets, raincoats, and shoes. A total of 53,216 individual items were distributed to 4,475 persons.

Furthermore, through the Centres for [Women & Girls and Boys & Young Men Centres](#), UNFPA continued to distribute modern contraceptives and hygienic products as per identified needs. In January, UNFPA distributed 478 dignity kits (9 for girls) including contraceptives and pregnancy tests. In addition, 22 dignity kits (6 for UASC) and 185 condoms were dis-

tributed through Centres for Boys and Young men.

Donations in NFIs were provided as follows: in TRC Usivak, 46 baby shampoos and 104 hygiene packages by Caritas; 1200 kitchen aluminium vessels by *Asocijacija Kuhara*; 123 hygienic packages by UNHCR/DRC; several bags of second-hand clothes by Primary School *Cengic Vila*. In TRC Sedra, four electrical stoves, and several pots and pans by a private citizen through IPSIA; five plastic bathtubs for babies, four tables and 16



NFI distribution in TRC Borici, © IPSIA 2021

chairs by IPSIA; new year's packages for children by the Municipality of Cazin; protective equipment and disinfection tunnel by H.E. Ambassador of Norway through UNDP; second-hand clothes and shoes by Bihac Red Cross. In TRC Blazuj, distilled water, disinfection liquid, and gloves by UNDP, and several clothing items by private citizens. In TRC Borici, sweets by Red Cross Bihac; 90 pairs of winter boots, 104 winter jackets and NFIs by UNICEF; second-hand clothes and toys by local citizens; 83 NFI by Red Cross and 88 NFI packages by DRC; two 20-litres brewing electric pots by Team Humanity U.S.A. In TRC Miral, 560 hygienic packages by DRC and 600 blankets by USC Red Cross.

Outreach

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams distributed 9,845 NFIs to 527 migrants and asylum seekers located in various locations in Una Sana Canton. The NFIs included clothes, hygiene items, sleeping bags, backpacks, shoes, jackets, and raincoats. The majority of migrants and asylum seekers assisted were from Pakistan and Afghanistan. The outreach teams carried out 17 transports for 79 persons.

HIGHLIGHTS

NFI

53,216

NFI distributed in centres

9,845

NFI distributed in outreach



500

Dignity kits distributed by UNFPA

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

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, water taps. Five TRCs have functional laundry systems for the washing of TRC bedding/sheets and the centre population's personal belongings.

During the reporting month, three washing machines and six new water heaters were transported from former TRC Bira to TRC Miral to improve the centre's WASH capacities due to increased number of migrants' present. To respond to the increasing needs of the centre, IOM also hired two additional cleaning staff from former camp Lipa.

Furthermore, in TRC Sedra to increase WASH capacities of the



New sanitary containers installation in TRC Sedra © IOM 2021

centre, IOM made operational additional toilets and showers (4 each) for migrants at the ground floor, while for the COVID-19 isolation area, two additional sanitary containers were equipped with two toilets and four showers each. Improvements were also made to laundry operations - changes were made to the schedule of laundry service, whereby each accommodation section will have one day in a week for laundry, as per migrants' request. Lastly, the capacity of laundry of TRC Borici was increased, with Caritas Banja Luka enabling an additional space in the former TRC Bira. In TRC Ušivak, IOM organized meeting with TRC's mother with babies, at the presence of UNICEF, to inform them on the new WASH facility to have their feedback as primary users of the new facility (picture on the left).



Meeting with female migrants on a new *Mother and Baby* WASH Facility in TRC Ušivak © IOM, UNICEF 2021

TRC Borići has 20 toilets and 20 showers inside the building and 21 toilets and 13 showers outside the building (in sanitary containers), with facilities separated by sex. Hot water and drinking water are available in the centre. Ten washing machines are installed and operational.

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. Four washing machines are fully operational.

TRC Sedra has 57 toilets and 66 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.

TRC Ušivak has 47 toilets and 36 showers and facilities are separated by sex. Hot water and drinking water are available at the centre.

TRC Blažuj has 80 toilets and 97 showers. Hot water and drinking water are available.

IOM continued to support all TRCs in USC with vector and pest control activities. Disinfections are organized weekly, while disinsections take place monthly, and deratization take place every three months.

HIGHLIGHTS



289

Toilets available in TRCs



266

Showers available in TRCs



4,460

Persons assisted with laundry services



33,663

Hygiene items distributed in TRCs, out of which 9,845 in outreach

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Meals distribution in centres

IOM and partners (Red Cross in USC/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. 285,176 meals were prepared in January, out of which 95,772 in USC, 187,947 in SA canton and 1,457 in Salakovac.

Improvements based on community feedback

In USC, upon the request of the centre population, IOM made available open, fully equipped kitchens so that migrants can prepare their own food if they wish. In accordance with COVID-19 prevention measures, a limited number of migrants and asylum seekers are allowed in the kitchens at a time, depending on the size of the kitchen. In TRC Sedra, two additional electric stoves were added to the centre's external kitchen.

Persons with special dietary requirements

Partner agencies also made sure that all persons with special diet needs were assisted, these included special meals for vegetarians, and those with various diseases. In TRC Borići and Sedra, IOM Food Assistant and the City of Bihac Red Cross representative met to discuss on special dietary regime for those migrants, who received doctors' prescription, in compliance with DRC guidelines and on menu and food preparation changes to improve the overall food quality.

Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling

UNICEF in partnerships with Fenix and World Vision provided individual support to mothers, pregnant women and children, and in cooperation with IOM continued distributing NFI and FI to mothers and children, including complementary food for babies prepared per UNICEF guidelines on child feeding, and 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, these usually consist of salty and sweet purees which are being made for babies in TRC Sedra, Borići, Usivak and Salakovac. As such, last month 315 baby milk formulas were distributed for 22 babies, and 1,360 complementary



Breakfast distribution in TRC Miral © IOM 2021

baby meals prepared for 226 babies.

Donations

In January, TRC Blažuj, received a donation from „Memić“ local butcher shop that provided 10,000 pieces of Bosnian traditional meat balls, „čevapi“ to be distributed to migrants and asylum seekers.

Outreach

During the reporting month, IOM/Red Cross outreach team distributed 14,969 food packages to migrants and asylum seekers outside the centers.



Sweets distribution, TRC Borići © IOM 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



315

Baby formulas distributed

1,360

Complementary baby meals distributed



5

Community kitchen provided in all TRCs

285,176

Meals distributed in centres



14,696

Meals distributed in outreach

General

In coordination with IOM AVRR office, DRC Protection and Medical Teams assisted in organizing medical examinations for migrants/asylum-seekers who expressed an intention to voluntarily return to their country of origin. Additionally, 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. First aid was provided by medical teams in TRCs, Red Cross Teams and DRC medical officer in outreach.

COVID-19

All new arrivals to the centre were immediately referred to do a medical screening, including COVID-19 symptoms. As a preventive measure, new arrivals are followed and regularly checked for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days upon arrival.

During January, **2,334 entry screenings for COVID-19** symptoms were performed in TRC/RRC/PC, out of which 1184 in PC Lipa. At the end of the month, there were 70 migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in preventive isolation in USC TRCs/PC and 12 cases exhibiting symptoms isolated in symptomatic isolation in TRC Blazuj. 27 migrants and asylum-seekers were tested for COVID-19. By the end of January, a total of 287 beds in TRCs in USC were available for preventive isolation and a total of 174 beds for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.

Education on the topic of COVID-19 was conducted for migrants and asylum seekers through the implementation of 20 workshops by UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centres (total of 195 participations), with additional practical advising taking place outside the centres (over 1000 participations). To promote better hygiene habits, and contribute to cleanliness of accommodation units, UNFPA disinfected 110 accommodation containers in TRC Usivak with the help of UASC.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare

A total of **5,002 examinations** were performed in six temporary medical units in TRCs, including Salakovac. There were **1,452 direct medical interventions** performed by Primary Health Centre medical teams in coordination with DRC. In addition, 2,118 individuals were medically attended directly by DRC staff. The largest number of examinations/interventions was performed in TRCs Blazuj 1,826 and Miral 1,186. DRC implementing partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) provided assistance/medical escorts to 271 patients through 390 medical accompaniments to primary and secondary care facilities in USC, SC and HNC. DRC Medical Assistant in Tuzla, regularly visited key spots and shelters where migrants are sleeping in the rough, and completed 43 direct medical interventions. In addition, seven individuals were referred to secondary healthcare (SHC).

DRC established basic medical care at PC Lipa in support of primary healthcare (PHC) Bihac medical team. A total of 1,624 medical examination and 332 medical interventions were conducted by the DRC medical teams during the reporting period.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **277** migrants and asylum-seekers screened for diphtheria in TRC Blazuj
- DRC made additional **COVID-19 PCR testing** available in collaboration with Policlinic "Muminovic"
- DRC equipped Primary Health Centers in Bihac and Velika Kladusa with **laboratory autoclaves**; the Cantonal Hospital in Bihac with specialized furniture for ambulance; the University Clinical Center in Tuzla with **PPE and hygiene items**.

Healthcare provided by outreach teams

Six Red Cross Mobile Teams in partnership with DRC continued implementing outreach health activities, primarily in enhancing provision of first aid and strengthening referral process towards public health institutions. During January, they assisted 1,339 individuals through 1,615 first aid assistances and 587 PSS first aid consultations.

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) outreach medical officer performed 132 interventions in USC. Most dominant conditions observed in USC outreach were flu-like symptoms, hypothermia, frostbites, and injuries of the musculoskeletal system mostly caused by some external force (cuts, stab wounds, abrasions, commotions).

A high number of migrants and asylum seekers were also struggling with skin diseases, the most dominant is scabies due to poor hygiene conditions, lack of sanitary facilities, access to clean water and regular medical services. In Bihac urban areas, most problems are blisters, fever, scabies, and infected wounds.

Mental Healthcare

UNICEF in partnership with Mdm continued to provide Mental health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS) for UASC and children in families in TRCs in USC through MHPSS individual and group psychosocial sessions. UNICEF/Mdm MHPSS team provided services to 67 children in three TRCs in USC. A total of **82 individual counselling sessions** were held in TRCs Sedra, Borići, and Miral. The most common symptoms identified by Mdm psychologists during the individual sessions were anxiety-depression symptoms and self-harm behaviours. While, **32 psychosocial and empowerment group sessions** were held with a total of 53 participations. The focus of the psychosocial /empowerment group sessions was on improving children's mental health and well-being. Psychologists worked on developing children's ability to better recognize and understand their emotions, using relaxation techniques to reduce stress and strengthen healthy coping mechanisms. UNICEF / Mdm psychologists focus on providing equal opportunities for children in TRC and encourage teenage girls to be involved in the activities by organizing group sessions.

HEALTH

An increased number of UASCs were diagnosed with one or more mental illnesses and treated by a neuropsychiatrist. SCI case workers made **98 referrals for examination and consultation on MHPSS**, assigned with a guardian and a case worker.

Furthermore, UNICEF/MDM held the first module of the capacity building/skills-based training online, with the support of Bosnian-herzegovinian Association for Integrative Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy (BHIDAPA), to enhance the capacities of mental health professionals in the provision of services for children and UASC in the migration context.

DRC provided **13 MHPSS interventions** in January. A DRC contracted neuropsychiatrist completed **89 examinations** in TRCs. DRC implementing partner MDM continued implementing MHPSS activities for the adult male population, by assisting 295 new direct migrants and asylum-seekers. A total of **256 mental health consultations** and **110 group empowerment sessions** were conducted in seven TRCs.

During the reporting month, UNFPA supported **125 vulnerable women in need** through **individual MHPSS sessions**, including psychological interventions for two women who were trapped on the Plješevica Mountain and rescued by the Mountain Rescue Service (MRS) USC. In addition, group Psychosocial Support (PSS) sessions were conducted with 184 women and 19 girls as well as Peer Support Group for GBV survivors. 19 women were provided with MHPSS support provided by UNFPA due to reported allegations of violent pushbacks .

Pediatric Healthcare

Second phase of school medical examinations were performed for 22 children from TRC Borici by UNICEF/DRC paediatrician. Other newly arrived children will be subject to laboratory and microbiological sampling in the coming period.

All children were referred to the UNICEF/DRC paediatric teams in TRCs Sedra and Borići for preventive examinations, with special attention to children 0-12 months.

A total of **214 children received various health services**, including paediatric check-ups, counselling sessions on personal hygiene, dental services and ophthalmological services from UNICEF/DRC paediatric teams. Additionally, 278 parents from TRC Borići and Sedra have been counselled on the importance of immunization.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

UNFPA gynaecologists in SC and USC supported **123 women and girls in need through the provision of SRH services**, of which four were highly sensitive cases including life-threatening situations. During the SRH sessions, UNFPA team distributed **83 packs of supplements** on the recommendation of gynaecologist. With the support of IOM and in cooperation with the local health care centre, UNFPA organized gynaecological examinations for 35 women, including five pregnant women. UNFPA urologists held **20 SRH sessions**, with 195 participants recorded (96 UASC and 99 young men). After the sessions, 10 participants took individual consultations, after which they were recommended for further medical treatment.



SRH session with adolescents in TRC Usivak, UNFPA

A total of five pregnant women were followed up by DRC. Required reproductive health care services were regularly delivered to female population in USC, SC and HNC. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the BiH Ministry of Health, in coordination with PHC and SHC, issued the decision that every pregnant woman is obliged to test on COVID-19 before gynecology examination at PHC and SHC. During the reporting period, **UNFPA urologist held two sessions on SRH for adult male in TRC Sedra and Borici**, while individual consultations will be conducted on a regular basis.

HIGHLIGHTS



5,002

PHC Examinations
in January



1,452

PHC Interventions supported by DRC
in January



2,334

Entry screening for COVID-19 in centres



123

Women supported with SRH services by
UNFPA in January

20

SRH sessions were provided for young men
and UASC by UNFPA

463 individual MHPSS sessions and 142

group MHPSS sessions were provided to
women, men and children through
individual/group sessions by **DRC, UNCEP
and MDM**

EDUCATION AND LEISURE

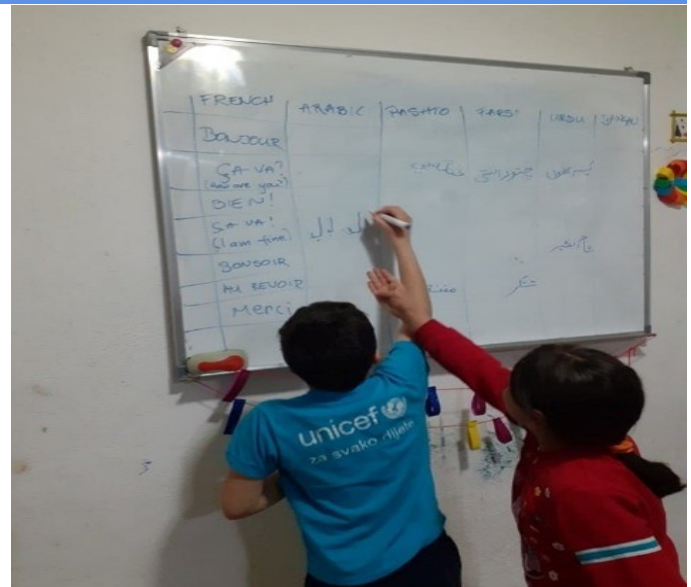
Educational activities

UNICEF continued to advocate with the Ministry of Education of Sarajevo Canton to enroll children from TRC Usivak in the nearby public schools. Children in upper grades of primary school attended classes online due to COVID-19 preventive measures. In USC, 182 children were reached with preparatory classes, out of which 133 started the second school semester in the last week of January .

UNICEF is committed to hold regular education activities in all TRCs to increase the rate of literacy in children, with its partner Save the Children they reached a total of 195 children (in USC) with informal education activities, and 92 (in SC) in partnership with World Vision.

Since children were on a school break, UNICEF organized several [informal education workshops](#) to assist children with homework, Bosnian and English language classes, teamwork exercises, creative workshops, and sports activities.

Several [English and Bosnian language classes](#) were held in January for migrants and asylum seekers organized by various agencies. UNFPA organized over 45 English language sessions, with 221 UASC and 168 male individuals. A total of 309 children were reached during January through the Akelius Digital Language Course in all TRCs in BiH, supported by UNICEF.



Language classes for children in TRC Borici, © UNICEF 2021

Recreational activities

Humanitarian partners on the field organize various recreational activities for migrants and asylum seekers while abiding by COVID-19 prevention measures. For example, in TRC Sedra, IOM organized a few trips for families with children in collaboration with Udruzenje 27, including a play in Cazin and sports training in the school gym of Ostrozac, together with children from the host community. A workshop on traditional music of BiH, Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan was held by a local NGO Zene sa Une in collaboration with IOM.

The UNFPA [Boys and Young Men Centers](#) held over 50 creative and social workshops, with a total of 297 UASC and 79 male individuals.

SCI outreach team regularly visited Centre for Children and Youth MFS-Emmaus (CCY) five times a week to organize sports, educational and art activities for migrants and asylum seekers.



Gender-based violence education activity © UNFPA 2021

In TRC Miral, English and French language classes were held, on migrants and asylum seekers request. Classes were held by migrants who volunteer to teach each other new languages every Saturday from 15:30 to 16:30 in the centre's dining room.

IOM collaborated with *VII Photo Agency and Foundation* to conduct a series of training on photography basics for migrants from Usivak and Blazuj. Furthermore, the same TRCs will start with Quran classes, the information was put on info boards to inform all the migrants of the new activity.

During the reporting month, UNFPA [Women and Girls Center](#) teams implemented 47 empowerment and educational sessions of various types and reached a total of 528 female individuals, including 38 girls.



Sports activities for TRC Sedra UASC in primary school Ostrozac © UNICEF/SCI 2021

SAFETY AND SECURITY

IOM and Security staff are present 24/7 at all TRCs, 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 TRC Bira, Borići, and Miral. For each center, 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 of coordinating all the security procedures.

IOM continuously works on improving the security and safety measures in all TRCs. In January, 18 fire extinguishers were installed in TRC Sedra to increase safety and security of migrants and asylum seekers. Increased number of unauthorized entrances by UASCs previously relocated to Reception Centre EMMAUS in Duje were registered in TRC Borici. Consequently, IOM security guards were instructed to increase alertness and control to prevent unauthorized entrances.

In January, frequent and strong seismic activity on the border with Croatia was registered. In TRC Sedra, evacuation of IOM, partner agencies and migrants and asylum seekers occurred several times upon the occurrence of earthquakes. However, no damages were detected by IOM engineer after checks of the building.

TRC incidents

Clashes were reported on 21 January in TRC Blažuj, where Police arrested 17 migrants accused of organizing violent protests in the centre.

The all-adult-male reception centre in Sarajevo Canton (SC), which is currently hosting over 3,000 migrants was also seriously damaged, while injuries of two police officers, an IOM staff member, and several other migrants and asylum seekers, including one unaccompanied and separated child (UASC), were registered. In response to the violent clashes, the Prime Minister of Sarajevo Canton met with IOM to explore feasible solutions to reduce the number of persons present in the centre and it was agreed that no new individuals are to be registered until further notice, except for urgent medical cases.

Furthermore, on 8 January, a fire broke out in Tent 3 in TRC Blazuj where all items were destroyed, however no injuries to people were registered.



IOM Chief Of Mission visit after clashes in TRC Blazuj, © IOM 2021

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS



Transportation of migrants and asylum seekers © IOM 2021

IOM has on-call mobile teams available 24/7 for assistance and transportation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers providing various types of transports. These include transportation for medical cases to hospitals, for children going to school, for vulnerable and injured persons to centers identified by outreach teams, for asylum-seekers going to their asylum interviews and transfers at the request of the SFA. Red Cross stopped the provision of transportation in USC, however IOM continued to provide transportation if/when needed.

The numbers in January were as follows: 217 to medical facilities, 22 to SFA, 10 for Education purposes, 27 outreach and 72 others (which also includes transports between TRCs).

HIGHLIGHTS



348 transports

carried out for **685** migrants and asylum seekers

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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



IOM 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.