



The European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, visit to Provisional Camp Lipa, © IOM 2021



773

New arrivals in February 2020
(source: MoS BiH)



5,243

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



2,000

Persons assisted outside
(source DRC, local authorities)

POPULATION OVERVIEW

Accommodated and Assisted at the end of January 2021

75%

Single adult males

17%

Families with children

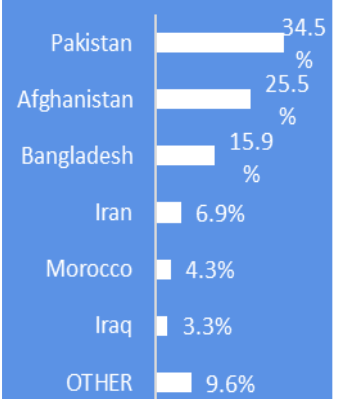
7%

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

During February, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) authorities recorded the irregular arrival of 773 migrants and asylum-seekers to the country, out of which 13 were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The majority of them declared to be from Afghanistan (41%) and Pakistan (32%), while the 89 per cent (689 persons) expressed an intention to seek asylum. 70,856 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

Presence in BiH at the end of the month

5,243 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of February, of which 75 per cent are single adult males, 17 per cent are families with children and eight per cent are UASC. 2,500-2,700 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mainly in Una-Sana Canton (U

February highlights

In February, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, visited BiH, and together with the EU Ambassador to BiH, Johann Sattler, the Minister of Security, Selmo Cikotić, the Director of Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Laura Lungarotti, visited the Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa. They also visited the former Emergency Tent Camp Lipa and assessed current developments in the context of migration management. The dialogue focused on migration governance reforms, responsibility sharing in the country and the continuous support that the European Union (EU) provides for migration management.

The EU Home Affairs Commissioner also met with the delegation of the Ministry of Security of BiH, the leaders of the BiH Border Police and with BiH SFA, in Una-Sana Canton (USC), as well as with members of the BiH Presidency, the Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, and his deputies. In her press statement, Johansson mentioned the importance of having improvement and capacity building initiatives in regard to the migration management system in BiH.

In February, a first meeting of the Working Group for the development of a new Strategy on Migration and Asylum and Action Plan for the period of 2021–2025 was held, where it was agreed to share the final draft by 31 August 2021 with the BiH Council of Ministers for its final adoption.



IOM training to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, © IOM 2021



UNDSS, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and the SFA joint workshop to Tuzla Cantonal Police © UNHCR 2021

The humanitarian partners and the State authorities including the Service of Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) continued to work together to provide improved living conditions to migrants in reception centres throughout the country and provided assistance to those in informal accommodation. Despite efforts to increase the current TRCs capacities, additional accommodation options are highly required to guarantee a dignified stay of migrants and asylum seekers. Current overpopulation of TRCs is also aggravating protection and health risks, particularly considering the COVID-19 pandemic as the WASH facilities are insufficient and physical distancing is a challenge in itself. Due to overpopulation many TRCs are also struggling with electric system overload resulting in frequent power outages and consequently impacting on migrants' living conditions in the centres.

In addition, construction works to improve living conditions of migrants and asylum seeker in the PC Lipa continued. IOM, the Red Cross, and other humanitarian actors, under the supervision of the SFA continued to provide basic amenities, such as electricity, heating, and water to all temporary residents of the camp: a dining and food service tents, a prayer tent, and a medical corner, made up of five containers, were set up by IOM together with the help of local contractors.

Concurrently, IOM and humanitarian partners continued to



Works on access road to Provisional Camp Lipa © IOM 2021

provide technical support to capacitate the SFA on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) tasks, especially in the provisiona camp Lipa. IOM conducted trainings for the SFA management staff: on Team Leadership and on the distribution of Non-Food Items, which included monitoring and storage management. IOM supported the installation of additional necessary equipment used for the on-going registrations. As of February, the SFA is conducting registration of migrants and asylum seekers present at the PC Lipa with the issuance of the Identification Cards (ID) from Ministry of Security (MoS). In addition, UNHCR donated 24 tablets with translation software to improve communication between the SFA field staff and the registering individuals. They also donated more than 10,000 protective masks and 50 protective plexiglass panels in line with COVID-19 preventive measures.

In February, suspension of registrations in TRC Blažuj due to overcrowding of the centre, continued, with the exception of vulnerable medical cases that can be accommodated subsequent to the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) screening. Furthermore, IOM, the Ministry of Security, and the Cantonal



Finalized cleaning from leftover debris and burnt beds in former Lipa © IOM 2021

Police, initiated discussions to increase the security level of the centres, where initial assessments were carried out by the Cantonal Police in TRC Blažuj, especially after the incident that happened at the end of January. This included strengthening of the fence around the compound of TRC Blažuj and the expansion of the video surveillance system. Discussions also included a possibility to engage a Liaison Officer, to improve the coordination between the municipality and the camp management.

Lastly, regarding the national BiH COVID-19 vaccination plan, migrants and asylum seekers were not yet included in it. It is plausible that persons under international protection, which are already part of the health system, will have access once vaccines become widely available, however this was not explicitly confirmed by BiH authorities. As such, all United Nations (UN) agencies together with the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) in the lead, continued advocating to ensure that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, will be included in a national vaccination plan and that none will be left behind.

CENTRE COORDINATION AND CENTRE MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In February, CCCM meetings were regularly organized with all partner agencies including Service for Foreigners Affairs. In TRC Blažuj, meeting's discussion points focused on the plan to relocate minors from TRC Blažuj to Ušivak based on the centre's daily capacity. In TRC Sedra, Save the Children International (SCI) announced changes to their team: the number of Child Protection Officer (CPO) and Case workers will be increased; Danish Refugee Council (DRC) announced it will suspend the hair salon activity due to lack of funds and is forwarding the invitation for other partner organization to take over the activity. In TRC Ušivak, discussions focused on IOM and UNHCR decision to meet on a weekly basis for data harmonization on the presence of migrants and asylum seekers in the centre. In TRC Miral, partners agreed to find a better solution for the UASC preventive isolation area, which is currently too small, and therefore not suitable for the purpose; IOM AVRR team, from now on, to provide transportation to the SFA office in Bihać for migrants and asylum seekers who need to get White Paper documentation whenever the SFA staff is not available. In TRC Borići, partners highlighted the rising issue of child neglect by parents who tempt to go for onward movement and leave them in the centre. IOM and partner organizations discussed the issue of family separation and agreed to establish a preventive referral system by UNFPA and Mdm.

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. In February, in TRC Blažuj, one of the main points discussed was the establishment of a system where migrants who are not registered in the centre, will be provided with a temporary card which will allow them to enjoy services provided in the centre such as food and WASH facilities, and will be valid for a three-day period. In TRC Borići, representatives from the Eritrean community expressed their interest to volunteer in the centres' daily activities, while the Iranian com-



"Boys parliament" elections held in TRC Borići in February, CWS, UNICEF and SCI © 2021

Lastly, IOM held Focus Group Discussions (FGD) on COVID-19 topics with migrants and asylum seekers in TRC Borići, Miral and Sedra. During FGDs, Migrants and asylum seekers had the chance to provide their experience and feedback on the centre's COVID-19 quarantine area. Most of the migrants and asylum seekers suggested to add interaction games, TVs or toys for children.

Furthermore, *Boys Parliament meetings* are organized in TRC Sedra, Borići and Ušivak to ensure that UASC views and needs are considered and discussed. In February, elections of new representatives for the "Boys Parliament" were held in TRC Borići, as previous representatives were relocated to TRC Miral after turning 18. In TRC Sedra, UASC representatives requested to spend more time in the outdoor kitchen and to have options of additional activities. In that regard IOM and SCI announced they will organize cooking activities on traditional cuisine for migrants and asylum seekers in the coming weeks. Centres population also participate in various activities in and outside of the TRCs. During the reporting month, migrants and asylum seekers from TRC Miral volunteered to help IOM maintenance staff with the construction of two new tents. In addition to that, in February UNFPA regularly held the Women and Girls Committee (WGC) meeting in TRC Sedra.

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 February. In TRC Sedra, migrants expressed their dissatisfaction on food and on the insufficient availability of hot water in the centre. Regarding the first issues, in several occasions, migrants stated about food being undercooked and/or tasteless. DRC also reported several cases of stomach problems that migrants assume can be connected with poorly cooked food. As such, IOM took immediate action and met with the Red Cross representatives to see how to better the meals.



Community representative meeting in TRC Miral IOM © 2021

munity asked for a playground with sand and toys to be set up for children on the back yard of the centre.

PROTECTION

Asylum and Registration

During the reporting period, 14 asylum claims were registered by the Ministry of Security (MoS) - Sector for Asylum, while a total of 26 asylum claims have been registered so far in 2021, which is less than half the number registered during the same period in 2020 (55). Of the 70,856 migrants and asylum seekers detected from the beginning of by BiH authorities, 66,212 (93.3%) formally expressed intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigner's Affairs. Of these, 2,627 (3.7%) formally chose to or managed to lodge an asylum claim with the MoS, Sector for Asylum (SA).



Providing information on the asylum system in BiH in TRC Sedra, © UNHCR 2021

In February, an amendment to the Foreigners Act was discussed in the House of Peoples of BiH, which however did not comply with the request of the House of Representatives to examine this proposal under an urgent procedure. On the contrary, the proposal will be examined through a regular legislative procedure whose timing is unknown. The proposed amendment, if adopted, would seriously affect the principle of non-refoulement. UNHCR and Vaša Prava (VP) drafted their proposal and submitted it to the responsible authority stressing that the proposed amendment is contrary to the Refugee Convention and other relevant international mechanisms.

Brochures in ten key languages, prepared by UNHCR, are distributed daily by the Red Cross and IOM teams during their outreach activities, providing information on free legal assistance contacts provided by both UNHCR and partner Vaša Prava in BiH.

Child Protection

In February, UNICEF/CSW Ključ reported the increase of arrival/disembarkation of families (5) with children and UASCs (49), often stranded for a couple of days at the Velečevo checkpoint and returned by the Una-Sana Canton (USC) Police if apprehended on route towards Bihać. Furthermore, UASC continued to be identified in USC, especially in front of TRC Borići. Accommodation options in USC are limited and confined to very vulnerable children. Despite considerable improvement to relocate UASC to TRC Ušivak, in February, the number of UASC in TRC Blažuj was between 35 and 80 per



Psycho-social Support session with women ©UNFPA 2021

day. As most are not registered by SFA they cannot be appointed with legal guardianship which results in increased number of UASCs who are invisible to the authorities.

As several UASC continued to stay in TRC Blažuj which is a single adult males centre, UNFPA contributed to ensuring safety for this vulnerable category, through the Boys and Young Men Centre where age-appropriate activities are organized. In February, 40 UASC participations were recorded. Furthermore, due to frequent complaints of bullying among adolescents in TRC Ušivak, UNFPA initiated discussions on bullying and peer pressure with children. Moreover, due to a reported accident on a nearby railway track, UNFPA started implementing educational workshops for adolescents on the topic of traffic rules, giving attendees practical information on pedestrian conduct in traffic.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A roadmap for UASC protection in TRC Ušivak was completed with the participation of UNICEF, IOM, World Vision and UNHCR.
- SCI organized Child Protection Working Group gathering relevant State institutions and nongovernmental actors to establish a referral pathway for UASC identified in Tuzla Canton and in TRC Blažuj.

349

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

618

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

74

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

256

children benefited from CFS activities in February

Gender-based Violence

In February, UNFPA, MHPSS experts and partner organizations held several conferences on sensitive cases and developed a work plan for the protection of women. In addition, five safety plans were implemented aimed at increasing the survivor's sense of safety and three action plans to meet the needs of survivors and provide inter-agency support which, among other things, included the transfer of survivors to safer accommodation units. In TRC Ušivak, three Gender-Based Violence (GBV) training courses were held with the participation of 18 women, while in the TRC Blažuj sessions were held to raise awareness about the concepts and interconnections between gender inequality and violence among people on the move with participation of 24 single men. In addition to that, GBV Working Group was regularly held by UNFPA in February.

As most adolescent boys spend lot of time outside of centres, especially in TRC Borići, UNFPA team advised migrants and asylum seekers on GBV risks and perils they could face in the



PSS workshop with girls in TRC Sedra, © UNICEF and SCI 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



35

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

106

GBV cases received follow-up

3

GBV training course were held for 18 women and 24 men

mountainous terrain. Lastly, in TRC Usivak, the UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centre Team identified three new UASC protection cases during the reporting month and conducted the follow-up of nine previously identified cases.

Outreach

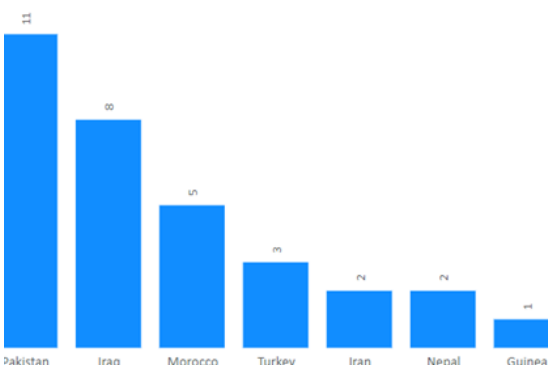
Restriction of movement in USC as well as the ban on use of public transportation for migrants and asylum seekers and within the Canton remained in force, except in the event that people travel outside the Canton. Over the month, 344 persons reported pushbacks to DRC Protection Teams. By the end of the month around 2,000 migrants and asylum seekers were identified by Protection Outreach Teams sleeping in informal accommodation in BiH. Lastly, SCI teams estimated that between 20 and 35 UASC were sleeping rough in squats weekly. The teams also regularly visited PC Lipa to identify and refer UASCs. A total of 14 UASC were identified in February: eight were accommodated in TRC Sedra, while the rest decided to leave the reception facility.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

In February, there were 23 departures (11 to Pakistan, five to Morocco, eight to Iraq, three to Turkey, two to Iran, two to Nepal, and one to Guinea). Furthermore, 2,652 migrants were reached by IOM AVRR outreach staff in BiH (911 in centres and 1,741 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](#).



AVRR departures in Feb 2021, IOM

Monthly Update • February 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



23

Departures in February

2,652

People reached by 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 construction works to set up the paediatric infirmary were completed during the month by finalizing the work of ceramic tiles on floors and by finishing electrical installations. Other works included: preparation to set the concrete base for the security container, and for the relocation of the partner agency MDM container from ETC Lipa; electric cables and reflectors were repaired to enhance the lightening; and fence was repaired.

The Blažuj TRC (opened in December 2019) In February, works included the cleaning and removal of debris from Tent 3, which burnt down at the beginning of January: metal bed frames were discarded, garbage disposed, and the plateau was thoroughly cleaned. IOM maintenance staff together with migrants collectively carried out woodworking activities resulting in the installation of a new table in the outside “social corner” and additional shelves in the centre’s kitchen to increase the storage space. In addition, two containers procured by UNHCR for BHWI partner were delivered to the centre and placed by IOM next to the warehouse building.

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) In February, a construction company started reparation works of the roof and walls on the 3rd floor which were previously damaged by strong wind. The works were completed with the connection of the rooms to electricity at the end of the reporting month. Furthermore, two recycling containers were set-up in the centre by public utility company Komrad. Other minor works conducted by IOM staff included the installation of a new security container in the backyard near the community kitchen.

The TRC Miral (opened in October 2018) To improve living



Blue shower containers for scabies treatment and white medical container units for medical purpose, PC Lipa © IOM 2021

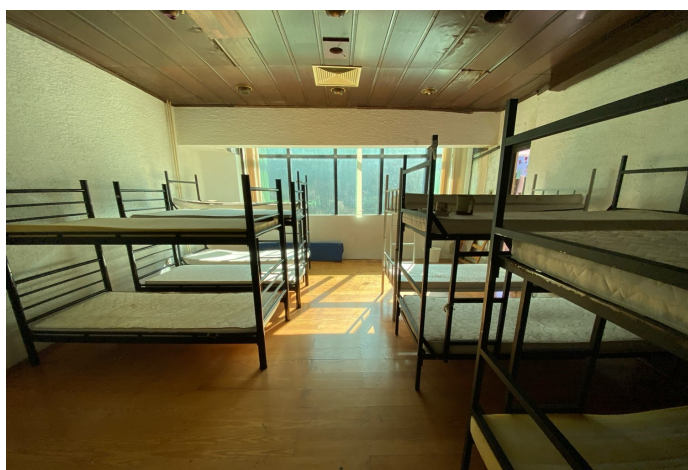
conditions of migrants and asylum seekers, IOM worked to increase the accommodation capacity to a total of 1,094 beds by adding 43 bunk beds from Bira and by repairing other three existing beds. IOM also worked to improve the centre’s electricity capacity by installing an electrical junction box with fuses in the laundry room, and therefore reduce the electrical network load.

The TRC Sedra (opened in July 2018) IOM engaged an electrician to make the electricity supply more stable, while two recycling containers were set-up in the centre by public utility company Komrad. The newly arrived container for the centre’s security staff and the UNFPA container for UASC were connected to electricity with the support of IOM maintenance staff. Lastly, on frequent requests of migrants and asylum seekers to improve the internet connection, IT company was called to set up an antenna and connect cables for improved internet connectivity.

The Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa (opened in January 2021) The work on the *medical corner* was finalized, including isolation area, with the support of the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and SOS Bihać, a local NGO. Once the official handover was done between THW, IOM and the SFA, containers were fully equipped with necessary supplies and are operational. Other works concluded were the set-up of two dining tents, and a prayer tent with the support of IPSIA and Red Cross. The BiH Army worked on the access road to PC Lipa, this included excavation, fixture of ditches, and removal of bushes to expand the road, while IOM procured gravel sand which was distributed along the road. BiH Army also installed a 6-meter plastic pipe under the road surface to prevent road from flooding.

[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).



Temporary Reception Centre Sedra shared rooms, © IOM 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 waiting to be screened are provided with hygiene packages (including soap, shampoo, shower gel, toilet paper, tissues) as well as clothes if needed. During February, a total of 53,062 individual items were distributed to 5,590 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 February, UNFPA distributed 258 dignity kits and 178 contraceptives for women. In addition, 8 dignity kits for

young men and 48 condoms for adolescents distributed through Centres for Boys and Young men.

Donations in NFIs were provided as follows: TRC Usivak, 170 boxes containing clothes for children, women and men, and 500 hygiene kits by the Ministry of Interior of Slovakia in coordination with Red Cross Hadžići; 100 boxes of second-hand clothes and shoes, and 20 packages of diapers by the US Embassy; 1200 underwear, 1000 male socks, 70 male jackets and 100 winter shoes by Yardimeli, a Turkish humanitarian organization; 100 boxes of hygiene items, 50 boxes of food items, 40 boxes of baby food and 100 boxes of second-hand clothing by FBiH Red Cross; 1800 reusable masks for children by REKAL Company. In TRC Sedra, several packages of clothes and shoes were donated by Austrian organization "Grenzenlose Hilfe Kremsmunster"; 65 packages for children (containing sweets and winter equipment such as scarfs, gloves, caps, etc.) by JRS; 324 clothing items, 78 shoes, 92 pairs of socks, 99 underwear and 347 jackets by Red Cross Bihac; 27 bags with second



Outreach teams in Una-Sana Canton, IOM©2021

hand jackets for kids aged 0-15 by IPSIA; clothes, shoes, tracksuits, underwear, and socks for children by UNICEF. In TRC Blažuj, 9500 face masks and 2000 pieces of protective suits were donated by UNICEF and UNDP, respectively; 1132 blankets and 600 sleeping bags by Islamic Relief; 100 boots by Caritas BiH; TRC Borici 82 packages of hygiene items were donated by DRC; 114 pairs of shoes for men and children by Office Shoes d.o.o. In TRC Miral, 1000 pairs of shoes were donated by a local company from Sarajevo, while 9500 face masks and 2000 protective suits were provided by UNICEF and UNDP, respectively.

Outreach

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams distributed 4,681 NFIs to 669 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. They also distributed personal protective equipment, such as disinfectant wipes, gloves and masks. The outreach teams carried out 14 transports for staff working in PC Lipa.

HIGHLIGHTS

53,062

NFI distributed in centres

4,681

NFI distributed in outreach

NFI

262

Dignity kits distributed by UNFPA



226

Contraceptives distributed for women and men

1,568

PPE distributed in outreach

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.

Furthermore, Caritas provides a mobile laundry service in Tuzla for migrants and asylum seekers staying at the "Safe houses" run by Puž and Emmaus Centre. Throughout the month, joint cleaning actions of IOM, partner agencies and migrants were conducted in the centres' perimeter and in the area surrounding TRC Blažuj and Ušivak: garbage was removed on the entire road to the centres. Former camp Lipa was cleaned from remaining burnt items, such as beds, tents



PPE distribution in TRC Usivak © IOM 2021

etc. by a recycling company. Maintenance and cleaning staff from TRC Borići worked in shifts at Lipa to help with removal of the leftover debris.

To respond to the increasing needs of TRC Miral, a new industrial washing machine was installed in the laundry room increasing the centre's WASH capacity, while an electrician repaired the tumble dryer in the laundry premise. Furthermore, to reduce overcrowding and long queues, migrants and asylum seekers can request a number at the IOM information desk to access the laundry service the next day. In TRC Sedra, works conducted by IOM maintenance staff included digging the channel to reroute the sewage waters in front of the centre's main building due to a tree that had fallen on and blocked water supply through existing pipes, also causing frequent flooding in front of the centre. Furthermore, to increase the centre's laundry capacity, an industrial dryer and cleaning tools for IOM maintenance staff were delivered.



Cleaning action at former camp Lipa by IOM and partner agencies' staff IOM©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.

PC Lipa has **40 portable ecological toilets and 21 showers** with warm water installed.

IOM continues 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



3,987

Persons assisted with laundry services



24,788

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.](#) 236,121 meals were prepared in February, out of which 85,731 in USC, 148,047 in SA Canton and 2,343 in Salakovac.

Improvements based on community feedback

Fully equipped kitchens are available in TRCs for migrants to 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 Miral, in February, electric stoves of the indoor kitchen for resident's use were repaired by electrician.

In TRC Sedra, IOM Food Focal Point and the City of Bihac Red Cross representative met to discuss on the multiple complaints received by migrants and asylum seekers on alleged raw food and to prevent this from reoccurring.

Persons with special dietary requirements

Partner agencies made sure that all persons with special diet needs were assisted, these included special meals for vegetarians, and those with various diseases. In TRCs, IOM prepared special meals for migrants who requested to follow the 40 days of Christian fasting practice.

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, Ušivak and Salakovac.



Red Cross food distribution in PC Lipa © Red Cross 2021

As such, last month 231 baby milk formulas were distributed for 22 babies, and 1,854 complementary baby meals prepared for 256 babies.

Donations

250 sachets of instant soup and 500 jars of jam were donated by Red Cross Bihac to migrants residing in TRC Borići, which were distributed together with the regular meals.

Outreach

During the reporting month, IOM/Red Cross outreach team distributed 14,223 food packages to migrants and asylum seekers outside the centres.



Outreach food distribution in USC © IOM 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



231

Baby formulas distributed

1,854

Complementary baby meals distributed



5

Community kitchen provided in all TRCs



234,121

Meals distributed in centres

14,223

Meals distributed in outreach

HEALTH

General

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 and by Red Cross Teams and DRC medical officer in outreach.

COVID-19

All new arrivals to the centre were immediately referred for a medical screening, including screening for 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, 831 entry screenings for COVID-19 symptoms were performed in TRC/RRC/PC by DRC and 50 migrants and asylum seekers were tested on COVID-19 during February. At the end of the month, there were 37 migrants and asylum seekers accommodated in preventive isolation in USC TRCs/PC and four cases exhibiting symptoms accommodated in symptomatic isolation in TRC Blazuj.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare

A total of 4,400 examinations were performed in six temporary medical units in TRCs, including Salakovac. There were 1,341 direct medical interventions performed by Primary Health Centre medical teams in coordination with DRC. In addition, 2,052 individuals were medically attended directly by DRC staff. The largest number of examinations/interventions was performed in TRCs Blažuj 1,471 and Miral 1,600. DRC implementing partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) provided assistance/medical escorts to 300 patients through 441 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 87 direct medical interventions. In addition, seven individuals were referred to secondary healthcare.

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 February, they assisted 1,770 individuals through 1,970 first aid assistances and 470 PSS first aid consultations.

DRC outreach medical officer performed 94 interventions in USC. Most dominant conditions observed in USC outreach were symptoms of respiratory system diseases and an increase of digestive diseases symptoms, flu-like and respiratory symptoms and primary and secondary skin infections, injuries of the musculoskeletal system mostly caused by external force (cuts, stab wounds, abrasions, hypothermia, frostbites). 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 Bihać urban areas, most problems are blisters, fever, scabies, and infected wounds.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A draft protocol, developed by DRC in line with the Public Health Institute USC recommendations, on referral pathway or COVID-19 testing of migrants was shared with SFA
- 50 migrants and asylum seekers were tested on COVID-19

In February, two cases of deaths were reported, both outside TRCs: one case of accidental drowning of the male in vicinity of Velika Kladuša and one case happened in proximity of Tesanj (in central Bosnia) as a result of violence among different migrants and asylum seekers communities.

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 94 children in three TRCs in USC. A total of 60 individual counselling sessions were held in TRCs Sedra, Borići, and Miral. The most common symptoms identified by Mdm psychologists during the individual sessions was anxiety. While 30 psychosocial and empowerment group sessions were held with a total of 65 participations. Empowerment group sessions' activities aimed to empower children through creative and educational activities, including art expression techniques. The sessions are designed to strengthen stress-coping mechanisms, enhance creativity, teach how to verbalize emotions, increase self-compassion and effectively manage stress.

DRC provided 42 MHPSS interventions in February. DRC also noticed that migrants and asylum seekers that stay for a long time in the TRCs often enter a state of apathy and hopelessness, showing symptoms of depression, with the COVID-19 pandemic greatly contributing to it.



Workshop with UASC on medical therapy and misuse of drugs © UNICEF, DRC, SCI 2021



SRH session with young men in TRC Blazuj, © UNFPA 2021

DRC implementing partner Mdm continued implementing MHPSS activities for the adult male population. Mdm assisted 219 new direct beneficiaries. A total of **342 mental health consultations** and **105 group empowerment sessions** were conducted in five TRCs for 998 participants.

In February, UNFPA PSS sessions addressed the topics of group cohesion and mutual support, aimed at developing a better trust and support network. UNFPA PSS Experts provided PSS in 19 crisis interventions, due to aggression, suicidal thoughts, side-effects of medicines, and one case of rape. Additionally, UNFPA staff provided urgent intervention in a case of severe domestic violence, accompanying survivor for medical observation, and giving necessary support during essential law enforcement investigation procedures.

During the reporting month, **UNFPA supported 138 vulnerable women in need** through individual MHPSS sessions, which is a higher number compared to the previous month. In addition, **nine group PPS sessions** were conducted with 51 women and five girls.

Pediatric Healthcare

DRC/UNICEF together with cultural mediators visited 16 families with children in TRC Borići aged 0-10 years and instructed them on COVID-19 preventive measures, as well as on the procedures to perform paediatric examinations, regular monitoring of children and parental counselling. UNICEF/DRC, together with the DRC Outreach Protection Team, visited the site of Bosanska Bojna, where numerous families with children, regularly reside outside of official reception centres. A total of 81 children aged 0-17 years were examined.

In TRC Miral, UNICEF/DRC in cooperation with UNICEF/SCI, and UNICEF/CWS, held a workshop for UASCs on the topic "Planning of medical referrals for UASC relevant to Save the children-DRC activities" and "Misuse of medicines, self-medication with or without a medical prescription and outside of accepted medical guidelines". UASC actively participated to the activities with several questions and suggestions.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

UNFPA gynaecologists in SC and USC supported 101 women and girls in need through the provision of **12 SRH services**. A total of 39 women were recommended for a detailed gynaecological examination, which was provided for 24 women (11 pregnant women) and four girls. Furthermore, in February, during SRH sessions, the UNFPA team distributed 71 packs of supplements on the recommendation of gynaecologist.

UNFPA urologists held **21 SRH sessions**, giving practical advice on how to maintain hygiene standards and when to timely report any observed issues. The sessions covered 184 participations, of which 100 adolescents and 84 young men. After, individual consultations, a total of six persons (two adolescents and four young men) were referred for further medical treatment.

A total of nine 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 gynaecology examination at PHC and SHC.

HIGHLIGHTS



4,400
PHC Examinations
in January

1,341
PHC Interventions supported by DRC
in January



831
Entry screening for COVID-19 in centres

285
Women supported with
SRH services
in January



21
SRH sessions were provided for young
men and UASC



**540 individual MHPSS sessions and
144 group MHPSS sessions** were
provided to women, men and children
through individual/group sessions by DRC,
UNICEF, UNFPA and Mdm

EDUCATION AND LEISURE

Educational activities

UNICEF with partners organized more than 120 informal education activities inside of TRCs in Una-Sana and Sarajevo. In SC focus was on catch-up classes for children who did not go to school, as well as on Bosnian and English language classes to prepare children for the inclusion in the formal education system.

To strengthen and acquire the most necessary skills, UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centres in Sarajevo Canton and Una Sana Canton motivated and educated participants through the implementation of over 25 sessions Boys on the Move sessions in different languages, that include 321 beneficiaries (184 adolescents & 137 young men).

English and Bosnian language classes continued being held for migrants and asylum seekers organized by various agencies. Language classes contribute to better interpersonal communication in TRCs and empower women and girls with foreign language skills. UNFPA Women & Girls Centres implemented over 20 English language sessions, that included the participation of 14 girls and over 140 women.

In TRC Miral, English and French language classes continued,



Language classes for children in TRC Borici ©UNICEF and SCI 2021

on migrants and asylum seekers request. Classes are 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.

In TRC Blažuj and Ušivak, the "Dispatches in Exile" project, conducted in collaboration with VII Photo Agency and Foundation, where migrants were taught basics of photography, came to an end. Participant's photos and videos were presented and uploaded to the website which will be open to public. Migrants will have an account and be able to regularly upload new photos/videos. The project's trainers will visit the centres once every ten days to support and monitor migrants' work.



Cricket tournament celebrations in TRC Blažuj, IOM©2021

Recreational activities

In February, UNFPA organized football trainings for adolescent boys at the football stadium in Bihać and were provided with jerseys.

A first two-days long cricket competition was held in February, in TRC Blažuj. A total of 74 beneficiaries participated, divided in six teams. A trophy was given to the winners, which was purchased thanks to income generated by the recycling of aluminium cans at a local recycling company.

In TRC Borići, following the donation of electric tea pots by Team Humanity USA, IOM organized a tea party, for migrants and asylum seekers at the main plateau outside the centre.

Regular movie nights were organized by IOM in the centre's dining room in TRC Miral.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **182** children were enrolled in public schools in Una-Sana Canton and were provided with individual support in both schools and TRCs
- **303** children and **37** parents attended Akelius Digital English Language classes in TRCs Sedra, Borići, Miral and Ušivak.

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 by filling the gaps and recommendations. In February, based on discussions held previously between IOM, the Ministry of Security and the Cantonal Police, to increase the security level of the centres, initial assessments were carried out by the Cantonal Police in TRC Blažuj. The fence around the centre's perimeter was strengthened and completely re-established in some parts, spots for the video surveillance system were identified, and cameras will be installed in the coming month.

In TRC Borići, a security company was contracted to assess and repair the fire alarm system which was out of order. In PC Lipa, IOM continued to provide two security staff to take care of the remaining assets. Furthermore, as a response to frequent unauthorized entries to TRCs, IOM provided additional containers for security guards to be placed in paramount locations of TRC Borici, Sedra, Usivak and Blazuj.

TRC incidents

February passed without major incidents, however in TRC Miral on 5 February, a fight occurred involving 50 migrants, who were immediately referred to the SFA and the local police. Six migrants were taken to the police station for further

HIGHLIGHTS

- IOM provided additional security staff to monitor migrants and asylum seekers in COVID-19 and isolation areas in TRCs.
- **4** additional, security containers were added in TRC Borići, Sedra, Ušivak and Blažuj, to reduce frequent unauthorized entries.
- IOM supported installation of street lighting in PC Lipa.
- IOM provided **2** security staff to support SFA in PC Lipa.

investigation on instigating the fight, and two were transported to the local health centre for medical treatment as they incurred injuries.



Street lights in Provisional Camp Lipa © IOM 2021

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

IOM has on-call mobile teams available 24/7 for assistance and transportation of migrants and asylum-seekers providing various types of transports. These include transportation for



IOM transportation from TRCs © IOM 2021

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.

Due to ban on transport of migrants in USC imposed by local authorities, IOM suspended all transport activities in the Canton except medical. As such, the numbers in February were as follows: 274 to medical facilities, 15 to SFA, 74 for Education purposes, 33 outreach and 121 others (which also includes transports between TRCs).

HIGHLIGHTS



517

transports carried out for **1,219** 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-