Arrivals

In July, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) authorities registered 2,236 migrants and asylum-seekers who arrived irregularly in the country, without registering unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). This is a 21 percent increase over the previous month, with a notable increase in citizens of Bangladesh (+ 31%) and Afghanistan (+ 22%). The increase in the number of arrivals in July is in line with previous years, tending to be higher than in June, most likely due to better weather conditions. This brings the total number of new arrivals to Bosnia and Herzegovina to 79,424 since January 2018.

Presence in BiH at the end of the month

3,610 migrants and asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of July, while 1,300-2,400 persons were estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mainly in Una-Sana Canton (USC). Among those in reception facilities, 78 per cent are single adult males, 17 per cent are families with children, nine per cent women and girls, eight children in family and five per cent are UASC.

July highlights

On 1 July, a donation ceremony was held in the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa, which is currently under construction, in relation to Pope Francis’ support for migrants and asylum-seekers moving along the Western Balkan route through the construction of two multipurpose halls and dining rooms for families and minors. On 6 July, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the IOM, the Ministry of Security (MoS) of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the Service for Foreigners’ Affair (SFA) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) which outlined the strengthening of cooperation and the exchange of information in the field of migration management in BiH, also determining the necessary support for the MoI to prepare and better respond to the challenges connected to it.

The reporting period featured several high-level visits. On 8 July, the Principal Situation Coordinator (PSC) for the Western Balkans at the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe visited BiH and together with UNHCR Representative in BiH met with the Mayor of Tuzla to discuss the importance of early identification and...
registration in the Tuzla area, which borders with Serbia. Meetings were also held with the OSCE Head of Field Office to discuss on the political situation and potential challenges regarding the mixed migration situation. The visit also provided the opportunity for UNHCR to discuss the overall strategy on the Western Balkan region and its cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

Moreover, between 11 and 14 July, the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection of UNHCR, came to BiH and visited TRC Borići and PC Lipa in Una-Sana Canton (USC) and TRC Ušivak in Sarajevo Canton (SC), together with IOM Chief of Mission (CoM), the Ministry of Security (MoS) and the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) representatives. During the visit, she also met with persons of concern, including two asylum-seekers in Sarajevo and Bihać, who outlined the difficulties in accessing the asylum procedure, and one individual with subsidiary protection status who described the process of local integration.

In July, IOM and UNHCR met to discuss the setting of the first joint activities consisting of mixed teams to communicate on the options available in BiH to migrants and asylum-seekers residing outside the reception centres, in terms of access to asylum, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), etc. The joint activities started on 15 July in USC and are expected to be undertaken once a week.

On 15 July, IOM and the SFA jointly conducted a fourth Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercise to collect information on the number of migrants present in BiH across six cantons, namely Una-Sana Canton, Sarajevo Canton, Tuzla Canton, West Herzegovina Canton, Neretva-Herzegovina Canton and Canton 10. Results showed that the total number of migrants identified in the 190 locations (31 municipalities) covered was 1,879, including 1,876 who stated that they were not accommodated in any of the official TRCs in BiH.

In July, the analysis conducted by UNHCR relating to the profiling activities of the Sudanese and Somali populations present in BiH, as part of a series of profiling exercises conducted for unique populations identified in the country with likely needs for international protection highlighted that while a large proportion of the population present BiH is likely in need of international protection, they are not interested in pursuing it here and are intent on continuing the movement towards the European Union (EU) and West Europe.

On 22 July, the Head of the European Union Delegation in BiH and the European Union Special Representative in BiH, together with the IOM BiH CoM, the Director of the SFA, the Assistant Mayor of the Hadžići Municipality, representatives from the Sarajevo Canton (SC) government and UNHCR visited the TRC Ušivak to participate in the official launch of the new Mother and Baby Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Unit, which provides migrants with a safe and peaceful space where families with children and pregnant women can spend time together while taking care of their well-being. The delegation also visited the COVID-19 isolation area, which was recently expanded and improved for an effective management of COVID-19 preventive measures.

On 28 July, IOM and the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) held a joint workshop, organized in USC, to discuss support to the Ministry of Security (MoS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) for increased migration governance capacities, and to define the operational plan for the functioning of the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa. Other United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in BiH also participated in the workshop.

On 30 July, the Head of the European Union Delegation in BiH and the European Union Special Representative in BiH, held a donation ceremony for the delivery of 63 vehicles and specialized equipment to the BiH Border Police (BP) and to the State Investigation Agency and Protection (SIPA). The event was attended by IOM BiH CoM, together with the Minister of Security of BiH, the Director of the BP of BiH, and the Advisor to the Director for Cooperation, Logistics and Training of the SIPA.

Lastly, to inform migrants and asylum-seekers on the danger of land mines, IOM BiH Office of Staff Security, in partnership with IOM certified instructors, organized several ‘Mine awareness’ sessions in all TRCs across BiH, in which a large number of migrants participated. Awareness sessions were held in both English and Arabic, while the migrants were also provided with leaflets containing information on mine awareness.
CCCM meetings were regularly organized in TRCs, with all partner agencies including the SFA. In TRC Borići, IOM reminded the partner agencies that if there were requests and proposals relating to services that fall within IOM’s mandate, the partner agencies should send their proposals directly to the CCCM which will coordinate them. In addition, partners discussed on the possibility to conduct activities aimed at integrating new migrants in the centre, who were previously residing in TRC Sedra. To this end, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organized focus group discussions (FGDs) to elect community representatives of all nationalities.

In TRC Ušivak, IOM provided updates on the activities held in the centre such as the lunch that was held at the sewing corner and at the Mother and Baby Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Unit to support social cohesion initiatives. Furthermore, IOM and Médecins du Monde (MdM) agreed on the training activity on the topic of "Resilience and management of occupational stress" and consequently informed the other partner agencies of the activity that was held for all staff working in the centre on two occasions. Lastly, "Drop in the Ocean" reported on the cooperation initiated with UNFPA to inform women migrants on the opportunities to conduct information technology (IT) courses.

Participation and Accountability to Affected Populations

IOM encourages beneficiaries in the reception centres to play an active role in decision-making processes and activities.

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 beneficiary groups, and between the migrants and TRCs’ management teams.

For instance, in July, in TRC Blažuj, Community Representatives were informed about the new IOM sewing corner which opened in July, while they expressed their dissatisfaction with the working hours available for the release of the attestation, which makes it difficult to receive NFI packages after the registration procedure. Representatives suggested to increase the number of tokens and/or of working hours. In TRC Miral, the IOM Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) staff, with the help of Community Representatives, interviewed migrants and asylum-seekers to find out which specific activities would be of interest to them. Most of the migrants expressed a desire for activities/workshops such as: tailoring, welding, carpentry and painting, especially as some of them had knowledge and experience in the aforementioned occupations. A smaller number of migrants, on the other hand, expressed the desire to conduct more artistic activities, especially painting, and computer activities. In the following period the MHPSS team will discuss possible opportunities to implement these activities with the CCCM.

Boys Parliament meetings are organized in TRCs Sedra, Borići and Ušivak to ensure that UASCs’ views and needs are heard. Centres population also participate in various activities in and outside of the TRCs. For instance, all TRCs marked the Eid al-Adha festivity with celebrations with tea and snacks that were served on the main plateaus by IOM and partner organizations, where also special menus were prepared also with the support of migrants and asylum-seekers.

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 July.
**Asylum and Registration**

In July, 18 asylum claims were registered by the MoS/SA, while 85 asylum claims have been registered so far in 2021, representing a 51 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2020, despite that fact that arrivals and expressed intentions to seek asylum are higher in the first half of 2021 compared with the same period last year. At the end of July, 124 people were identified by UNHCR awaiting registration in BiH with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH, and access to asylum continues to be restrictive in BiH, with current rates of registration far below those of previous years. It remains extremely difficult to register an asylum claim, especially for single men in TRCs and persons residing in USC.

Between 26 and 30 July, at the meeting of the Working Group to discuss the development of the Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Asylum for the period 2021-2025, UNHCR presented its comments on the Action Plan and the Strategy at the MoS. The preliminary draft of the Strategy and Action Plan was in public consultation at the end of July and will be open until 2 September.

There was a significant increase in Bangladeshi nationals arriving in BiH in July, most of whom are likely not in need of international protection. However, UNHCR will continue to closely monitor this trend and ensure the timely identification of any individuals among this population in need of international protection. In addition, in July, the increased number of arrivals in TRC Blažuj necessitated a stronger presence of the UNFPA team within the reception facility. In total, UNFPA provided 746 consultations through information sharing activities and channeled 51 referrals concerning newly arrived persons towards other services, thus identifying eight new protection cases concerning young men (endangerment due to religious affiliation and difficult experiences during movement).

**Child Protection**

In July, in TRC Miral, the designated zone for UASC continued to be operated by Save the Children International (SCI), with the support of UNICEF, as well as in TRCs Sedra and Borići, the 24/7 child protection support to UASC and children in family operated by SCI and in TRC Ušivak by World Vision, both with UNICEF’s support.

In July, a total of 484 children on the move (102 girls, 382 boys, including 277 UASC) benefited from on-site 24/7 protection support as well as non-formal and recreational activities, including through Child-Friendly Space (CFS) in TRC Ušivak (in partnership with World Vision) and in TRCs Borići and Sedra (in partnership with LAN and Save the Children). As such, a total of 176 children benefited from CFS activities in July.

In coordination with IOM and SFA, the UNFPA team recommended the temporary accommodation of four UASC in TRC Miral to in TRC Borići. This was deemed as a safe option while awaiting relocation to TRC Ušivak.

In July, 71 UASC were identified in front of TRC Miral, out of which 43 were previously registered in TRC Ušivak but could not be relocated to the TRC due to limited capacity for UASC in it. In these cases, UASC are offered accommodation at the Centre for Children and Youth (CCY) in Duje and are therefore left in vulnerable situations.

UNFPA team in the Boys and Young Men Centres (BYMC) in SC and USC’s TRCs identified nine new adolescent protection cases with trauma and violent experience occurred during movement while 19 previously identified cases were followed up. Moreover, in July, UNFPA in cooperation with other adolescent-mandated organizations held five Boys’ Voice meetings encouraging active involvement of adolescent persons in social events and decision-making.

**Gender-based Violence**

In July, UNFPA organized three GBV trainings for 31 participants with the aim of educating participants on the basic concepts of sexuality, intersexuality, LGBTQ and discrimination, and services which are essential for GBV survivors, in SC’s TRCs. In addition, specialized individual GBV sessions were organized for 43 women in USC’s TRCs to prevent recurrence of GBV and encourage timely reporting of GBV incidents.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 124 persons awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava
- 192 asylum claims pending at the end of July
- 92 guardianships assigned to UASC by Centres for Social Welfare, directly and in partnership with SCI, World Vision, and CWS, through UNICEF support
- 56 refugees were in the country at the end of July, of which 5 are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 208 children were supported in TRCs Borići and Ušivak through case management by UNICEF and SCI.
Moreover, two GBV group support sessions were held in TRC Blažuj for 14 young male survivors with the aim of mutually supporting each other and strengthening their capacities through the development of a social network. In addition, the UNFPA Peer Support group was held in TRC Usivak for 11 GBV survivors from different countries, where participants had the opportunity to share their experiences, strengthen their sense of togetherness and mutually encourage one another.

DRC continued to explore opportunities for long-term empowerment by supporting two GBV survivors. One of them is an asylum seeker who focuses on entering the job market and the other wants to volunteer as a translator for various organizations. However, further efforts are needed to improve the independence and self-sustainability of the assisted persons.

**Protection Outreach**

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Protection teams daily compiled protection incident reports, providing inputs on violent pushback cases at the Croatian border. In July, 766 persons reported pushbacks to DRC, and the most vulnerable cases were referred for medical assistance, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and accommodation and/or registration. This is a 41 per cent decrease compared to the month of June.

Throughout five TRCs, DRC Protection Monitoring teams identified 406 persons in need and referred them (755 referrals) for medical assistance, registration, accommodation, security/protection concerns, food, and non-food items (NFI). While out of the centres, 220 persons were identified in need of assistance. Lastly, a total of 8,478 assistances were provided by DRC, in terms of both food and NFI.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **43** new GBV cases were identified and assisted in Sarajevo and USC by UNFPA. Newly identified cases were predominantly women survivors (36), while five survivors were male.
- **87** GBV cases received follow-up by UNFPA GBV Case Managers, with 39 cases closed due to inactivity and protracted absence from TRCs.
- **1** case conference and **9** GBV work/safety plans were made by UNFPA GBV Case managers to provide comprehensive support to survivors.

### ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

In July, IOM facilitated the return of 15 migrants (eight to Pakistan, three to Nepal, two to Afghanistan, one to Egypt and one to Morocco). Furthermore, 4,418 migrants were reached by IOM AVRR outreach staff in BiH (958 in centres and 3,460 outside centres). The Outreach Team was present in TRCs/PC, promoting migrants’ rights and informed decision on voluntary return and reintegration options and counselling relevant to their decision. Information also include data on mobility restrictions and can be accessed on web page developed for [AVRR information campaign](#) as well as [Support for Migrants](#). Starting from mid-July, IOM and UNHCR also started a joint information activity for migrants and asylum-seekers residing in outside location on AVRR, asylum procedures and assistance available in TRCs in BiH.

Emowerment sessions for women in TRC Usivak © UNFPA 2021

Joint IOM and UNHCR information activity on AVRR, asylum procedure, etc. © IOM, UNHCR 2021
Sarajevo Canton and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

TRC Ušivak (opened in October 2018) Works concluded in July included the refurbishing of the new registration area by the external contractor, of which however the official handover between the external contractor and IOM is still pending, the installation of the fence in the symptomatic isolation zone. Other works included the construction work for the installation of a new UNFPA double container for administrative purposes. In this regard, the foundations were dug, after which the concrete foundations were laid. Furthermore, IOM completed the construction work of the access road from the gate to the Police container, which is located outside the centre’s area.

TRC Blažuj (opened in December 2019) To improve ventilation in the kitchen, the contractor carried out installation work on a new hood. Furthermore, IOM staff built and installed a 16 m² long fence around the previously refurbished medical unit building. The fence was painted with the support of DRC staff and the flowers were embedded in the fence. Other work done included painting the walls in the dining room and centre’s kitchen; the installation of waterproof lights around the hood to get better lighting; the installation of a protective fence on the windows of the World Vision’s office; the preparation, painting and installation of shelves for the prayer room for the purpose of storing shoes inside; the laying of foundations for the new Red Cross containers. Lastly, several works were conducted by external companies, among which: the installation of air conditioning units at the NFI hangar and the AVRR container; the installation of the fence in the symptomatic isolation zone. Furthermore, IOM has prepared and installed wooden planks for the new shelves to provide more storage space. Other included the installation of an information panel on the ground floor wall which will be used by partner agencies to share information and strengthen communication with migrants; the repair of the roof of the CCCM container, on which a makeshift canopy has been installed to prevent water from entering the container during rain. In addition, to improve night-time visibility, the reflector light at the main gates was replaced, the fence around the dormitory area was repaired in several places, while the holes in the entrance stairway were repaired. Finally, cementation works were carried out on the driveway as it was damaged.

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

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

Una-Sana Canton

TRC Borići (opened in January 2019) In July, the former NFI distribution premise was emptied and handed over to the SFA for the set-up of their office. For the new NFI warehouse, the IOM has prepared and installed wooden planks for the new shelves to provide more storage space. Other included the installation of an information panel on the ground floor wall which will be used by partner agencies to share information and strengthen communication with migrants; the repair of the roof of the CCCM container, on which a makeshift canopy has been installed to prevent water from entering the container during rain. In addition, to improve night-time visibility, the reflector light at the main gates was replaced, the fence around the dormitory area was repaired in several places, while the holes in the entrance stairway were repaired. Finally, cementation works were carried out on the driveway as it was damaged.

TRC Miral (opened in October 2018) Works conducted by IOM included the installation of a plexiglass in the container for temporary accommodation, the installation of new wooden shelving with metal supports inside the main NFI warehouse to better store all the material, the painting of the wall inside the laundry, the repair with silicones and foams of the holes and cracks in the roof of the Red Cross and laundry facilities. Furthermore, given the lower number of migrants present in the centre, and to increase space and maintain a better standard of hygiene, ten bunk beds and a single bed (for a total of 21 single beds) were moved from C2 room to the accommodation unit H3 to create additional space, especially for the single adult men staying there. Lastly, a tent, donated by the Red Cross USC, has been set up for the purpose of creating a sewing space where migrants can spend their time while sewing. The space is yet not operational.

TRC Sedra (opened in July 2018 and closed on 30 July 2021 – pending final approval by the Council of Ministers of BiH)

Lipa site (opened in January 2021) Work continued on the new TRC Lipa. In July, the second water tank was connected and put into operation, bringing the total capacity for the site to 100,000 litres. Some of the containers that had previously been deployed in TRC Sedra were transported to Lipa. Furthermore, throughout the month, work was conducted out to connect the sanitary containers to the water and sewage networks, as well as to the transformation station. Finally, the restoration works of the plateaus and the subsidence of the soil that had been damaged by the heavy rains, which took place during the month, by the construction companies were started. Lastly, the installation of the external and internal fencing with gates is continuing.

Tuzla Canton

In Tuzla urban area, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) continued to support its local partner PUŽ in the management of two safe houses, with capacities to host up to 50 migrants and asylum-seekers (families and vulnerable adults). Save the Children (SCI) continued to support the SFA in ensuring accommodation for UASC. In July, the Center for Children and Youth (CCY), operated by MFS-Emmaus, hosted a total of 11 UASC.
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, 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. Specially prepared baby packages and other items are available based on needs. All new arrivals in pre-registration or in isolation are provided with hygiene packages (including soap, shampoo, shower gel, toilet paper, tissues) as well as clothes when needed. In July, IOM distributed a total of 46,791 individual items to 3,814 persons. Furthermore, through the Centres for Women and Girls (WGC) and Boys and Young Men Centres (BYMC), UNFPA continued to distribute modern contraceptives and hygienic products. In July, UNFPA distributed 139 dignity kits and 226 condoms for women. In addition, 5 dignity kits for adolescent boys were distributed, with 144 condoms distributed through Boys and Young Men Centres.

After the need for summer shoes and children’s clothing was observed at TRC Borići, UNICEF purchased several quantities of summer NFI for children up to 10 years of age to overcome the shortage.

In addition to the regular NFI distribution, IOM also distributed donated clothes and protective reusable masks in all TRCs. In July, several donations of NFIs were recorded by various organization and international and local NGOs, as follows:

In TRC Borići: a box of new children's clothes by a private citizen; two cots for two newborns by IPSIA.

In TRC Miral: 320 pieces of hard soap by the Red Cross organization.

In TRC Blažuj: hygiene packages (paper towel, shower gel, shampoo, liquid soap, towel, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair comb, nail clipper and roll-on deodorant) by Qatar Charity; 100 shampoos by Pomozi.ba.

In TRC Ušivak: 205 hygiene packages by Qatar Charity; 69 hygiene packages by the DRC.

**Outreach**

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams continued to provide food and NFI packages, PPE, such as facial masks, single use gloves, and disinfection gels. The NFIs included clothes, hygiene items, sleeping bags, backpacks, shoes, jackets and raincoats. In July, a total of 77 NFIs to migrants and asylum-seekers located in various locations in USC were distributed. Moreover, DRC outreach teams also provided regular assistance to migrants and asylum-seekers in outreach location with the provision of food and NFI assistance.
To set up WASH services at par with the minimum SPHERE standards, IOM dedicates significant efforts to maintenance and repair, particularly of WASH containers and infrastructure, as damages frequently occur in the TRCs. Regular repairs and replacements include sink faucets, toilet tanks and pipes, shower faucets, flushers and water taps. The five TRCs have functional laundry systems for the washing of bedding/sheets and beneficiaries’ clothes. In TRC Borići, due to the heavy water leakage that occurred in the 2nd floor showers through the grouting of the floor up to the 1st floor toilet used by the partner organizations, the IOM carried out repair work: a new coat of grout was applied to stop leaks, while the plasterboard ceiling was replaced in the first-floor toilet. Other work included the repair the boiler in the COVID-19 isolation area and on the mezzanine, as well as the repair the 1st floor fuse box doors, which were found damaged.

In TRC Ušivak, on 22 July, the official launch of the new Mother and Baby Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Unit was held. The new space provides migrants with a safe and peaceful space where families with children and pregnant women can spend time together while taking care of their well-being, as well as an inclusive space designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Furthermore, the COVID-19 isolation area, which has recently been expanded and improved for an effective management of COVID-19 preventive measures in one of BiH’s largest centres hosting families with children and other vulnerable groups.

TRC Borići has 20 toilets and 20 showers inside the building and 20 toilets and 12 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 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 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.
Meal 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. 164,146 meals were prepared in July, out of which 40,191 in USC, not counting PC Lipa, 122,971 in SA canton and 984 in Salakovac. Given the closure of TRC Sedra the remaining food was delivered to the Red Cross central kitchen to cover the needs of TRCs Borići and Miral and to the outreach teams. In July, in TRC Blažuj, IOM conducted works on the ventilation hood in the centre’s kitchen while the dining room was painted. During these works, dry meals were distributed to migrants residing in the centre.

Furthermore, in July, UNFPA BYMCs distributed over 1770 drinks and numerous boxes of dates and biscuits to adolescents and young men participating in regular Boys and Young Men (BTMC) activities.

Improvements based on community feedback

IOM ensures that fully equipped kitchens are available in TRCs so that migrants can prepare their own food if they wish. In July, the outdoor kitchen in TRC Borići was not operational. Migrants and asylum-seekers from TRC Borići were provided with a place to cook meals in the TRCs dining hall using electric pans within a scheduled time.

Persons with special dietary requirements

Partner agencies also made sure that all persons with special diet needs were assisted. This included special meals for vegetarians and those with various diseases (such as diabetics, Chron’s disease etc.).

Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling

UNICEF, in partnerships with Fenix and World Vision, provided individual support to breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women and children. IOM provided babies below 24 months with special complementary food prepared by Red Cross in line with UNICEF’s guidelines on child feeding. These usually consist of salty and sweet purees made in TRC Sedra, Borići, Ušivak and Salakovac. In addition to these, baby milk formula is distributed to newborn babies until purees are introduced to the baby’s meal plan. Last month 328 baby milk formulas were distributed for 14 babies, and 518 complementary baby meals prepared for 112 babies. In July, UNICEF/DRC reported that the number of infants aged 0-3 staying outside reception centres increased, which prevents them from accessing infant and young child feeding counseling.

Donations

In TRC Miral, Red Cross delivered a donation of chicken meat, dates and bottles of drinking water for migrants residing in the centre. Furthermore, in TRC Miral, to celebrate Eid Al-Adha, in addition to the standard menu, cakes, juices, dates and other fruits were distributed to migrants, while in TRC Borići, the Sokolac Congregation of the local community, in collaboration with SOS Bihac, donated baked “Kurban” meat.

Outreach

In July, IOM outreach team distributed 6,311 food packages to migrants and asylum-seekers sleeping rough outside the centres. In addition to the above, the IOM/Red Cross outreach team also provided a total of 151 loaves of bread, three crates of apples and one crate of nectarines, XMRE – Ready to use meals, donated by the Civil Department of the United States Embassy and meat, rice, oil and flour, donated by a private citizen for Eid Al-Adha, to the migrants residing in external locations in the Una-Sana Canton. DRC outreach teams also provided regular assistance to migrants and asylum-seekers in outreach locations with the provision of energy-saving food and NFI assistance. A total of 4,816 assistances were provided during the month of July.
HEALTH

General

Due to the extremely high temperatures recorded in July, the DRC reported the deterioration in the general health of the pediatric population due to the high risk of infectious and communicable diseases, especially for those who could have serious consequences on the health of the child, including death (chicken pox, measles, scabies, impetigo, food poisoning, etc.), as well as health problems related to external factors (dehydration, heat stroke, accidental trauma, malnutrition, etc.). In addition to this, an increase in the number of reported cases of hemorrhagic fever (from rodents) with renal syndrome, most likely due to residing outside of official reception centres, without proper waste management and no access to adequate WASH facilities, was observed.

COVID-19

In July, the Crisis Board of the USC Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Policies updated the order regarding preventive measures within the TRCs, adding the possibility of 5-day preventive isolation for all newcomers, with performing the rapid antigen test on day 5. The Public Health Institute of USC turned to the DRC to obtain information on the number of migrants and asylum-seekers interested in vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine. The DRC has convened consultation meetings with IOM, SFA, UNICEF and PHI, defining several action points for vaccination preparatory actions.

All new arrivals to the centre were immediately referred to the 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.

In July, 17 COVID-19 and health awareness-raising educational workshops were conducted by UNFPA, reaching 56 UASC and 79 young men. Additionally, counselling regarding symptoms, physical distance and hygiene maintenance was provided on 13 occasions reaching 109 UASC and 309 men.

In July, 2,850 entry screenings for COVID-19 symptoms were performed in TRC/RRC/PC by DRC. In July, nine migrants and asylum-seekers were tested for COVID-19, one of which were tested positive. Additionally, in July, DRC delivered personal protective equipment (PPE) to PHC Kljuc (KN95 masks) and obtained fully equipped triage containers (with examination bed and basic furniture) for PHC Cazin, PHC Kljuc and PHC Bosanska Krupa. Additionally, two solar mobile showers with full equipment were donated to Red Cross teams in Velecevo to improve the WASH response on the site.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare

A total of 4,672 examinations were performed in five temporary medical units in five TRCs, including Salakovac. There were 1,157 direct medical interventions performed by Primary Health Centre medical teams in coordination with DRC. In addition, 2,289 individuals were medically attended directly by DRC staff.

In July, 77 referrals towards specialized healthcare in PHC and 79 towards SHC were conducted, while 32 hospitalizations were realized for patients in need of secondary health care.

DRC implementing partner, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), provided assistance/medical escorts to 269 patients through 442 medical accompaniments to primary and secondary care facilities in USC, SC and HNC.

Main conditions observed were symptoms of respiratory system diseases (24%), skin diseases and subcutaneous tissue (18%), diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (16%), digestive diseases symptoms (8%), followed by injuries, poisoning and other symptoms caused by external causes (9%). Overall, the incidence of the above-mentioned conditions is similar to the previous reporting month.

Healthcare provided by outreach teams

DRC Medical Assistant in Tuzla regularly visited key spots and shelters where migrants are sleeping in the rough and completed 55 direct medical interventions. In addition, six individuals were referred to secondary healthcare. In USC, 167 interventions were performed. A total of 15 referrals were conducted to Primary Health Centre/Secondary Health Centre (PHC/SHC), as well as two referrals for accommodation in TRCs.

Six Red Cross Mobile Teams in partnership with DRC continued implementing outreach health activities, primarily in enhancing the provision of first aid and strengthening the referral process towards public health institutions. In July, they assisted 736 individuals through 678 first aid assistances and 288 psychosocial support (PSS) first aid consultations. UNICEF/DRC teams visited families residing outside of official reception requiring urgent pediatric services. In July, a large number of families with children of different ages, residing outside the reception centres, in need of protection and health care were observed. As such, a total of 258 children aged 0-17 years were examined.

Medical consultation to migrants and asylum-seekers in TRCs © DRC 2021

Mental Healthcare

In July, UNICEF/ Médecins du Monde (MdM) teams provided 41 individual psychological counseling sessions and 17 group sessions for a total of 37 children in the USC TRCs. Symptoms of anxiety, depression and feelings of hopelessness remain the most common mental health issues reported by them.
HEALTH

In general, the need for the presence of MHPSS experts for children and adolescents has been observed in outreach locations, as children are exposed to prolonged situations of extremely stressful and in some cases traumatic experiences (such as constant fear, extremely precarious living conditions, unfavorable weather conditions, exhausting and dangerous travel through mountains and rivers, suffering and/or witnessing violent pushbacks, injuries and, in some cases, death). DRC implementing partner MdM continued implementing MHPSS activities for the adult male population. MdM assisted 232 new direct beneficiaries. A total of 205 mental health consultations and 80 group empowerment sessions were conducted in four TRCs for 581 participants. Furthermore, a total of 53 NPS consultations were conducted, with further 34 referrals to psychiatrists. The most dominant conditions observed by MdM during individual counselling sessions were anxiety-related symptoms, sleeping complaints, psychoactive substance abuse, mood-related complaints, suicidal intentions. In July, a steady high rate of turnovers, and unsuccessful onward movements to the EU, have maintained the increased need for individual PSS sessions. As such, UNFPA conducted 154 MHPSS individual sessions, including for four girls, mostly dealing with apathy, depression, insomnia, flashbacks and panic attacks. In addition, UNFPA organized 10 group PSS activities with 47 women and eight girls aimed at improving mental health, especially for women who have never had access to such services. Moreover, to identify the specific needs of adolescent girls, a group PSS session was held within UNFPA Teen Club activity in TRC Usivak. Additionally, UNFPA MHPSS experts provided 22 interventions in crisis situations, which involved panic attacks and suicidal thoughts, mostly caused by previously traumatic experiences. Also, UNFPA MHPSS staff identified and referred 11 women for essential psychiatric services, after which they continued to be actively monitored.

Pediatric Healthcare

In July, 328 children benefitted from health care services provided by UNICEF/DRC paediatric team in TRCs Sedra and Borici, with 411 parents counselled on the importance of immunization. Furthermore, a total of 15 children were provided with dental care during July. UNICEF/DRC pediatric team collaborated with the outreach team for children staying outside TRCs in need of health care. A total of 181 children aged 0-17 years were examined, while 145 medicament therapies and 34 interventions were provided. Furthermore, UNICEF/DRC pediatric team held a workshop and educational lecture for parents of children in TRC Borici, on the topic "Prevention and treatment of lice". Lice screening was then performed for 110 children residing in the center, whose presence was detected in 53 children. In addition, screening was carried out for 38 parents present at the workshop and therapy was provided for both children and parents.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (SRH)

In July, 58 women (11 pregnant) and one adolescent girl participated in SRH sessions organized by UNFPA gynecologists. After individual consultation, 20 (11 pregnant women) were referred to further undergo SRH examinations in local health clinics. SRH supplements were distributed to 87 women and two girls. In July, UNFPA urologists focused on the prevention of infectious transmissible diseases, monitoring of one's own health and timely reporting of observed symptoms. In total, 23 SRH sessions were organized, reaching 181 participants including 95 adult men, 56 UASC, 30 adolescents in family. Individual consultations were conducted with 7 adult men and one UASC who were further referred for SRH urological examination at the local health clinics.
EDUCATION AND LEISURE

Educational activities

A major challenge pertains to the lack of access to secondary education for children over the age of 15. In July, UNICEF met with government counterparts in SC, including the Commissionaire for Migration of SC and the Ministry of Education of SC to discuss next steps to ensure access to education and vocational training for migrant and asylum seekers’ children. The Ministry shared an action plan with the next steps to be taken for the inclusion of refugee and migrant children in formal education in SC. Soon, the Ministry will also share the administrative framework necessary for school enrollment. A MoU will also be prepared and signed soon. In July, UNICEF / SCI organized 15 workshops for 40 parents in TRC Borići. In this regard, special sessions have been launched where parents and children can come and learn the English language together. Moreover, as an additional part of the support for girls, seminars were conducted with girls and mothers in order to strengthen parental skills and support girls’ education. In USC, SCI continued to support the enrollment of children in formal education in five primary schools in the municipalities of Bihać and Cazin. In July 125 children finished the school year. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, SCI initiated and organized Summer School activities and sports courses in nature, in which 60 children participated every day. In July, the cantonal education ministry said it will allocate a budget from next school year to support the enrollment of refugee and migrant children in primary schools in Bihać.

In July, UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centres in USC and SC implemented 27 educational sessions providing knowledge on communication, relationships and personal needs to 247 participants, including UASC and adult men. UNFPA recorded 278 new participations of men and adolescents. Furthermore, in July, UNFPA held six foreign language sessions in USC with 39 women and 6 adolescent girl participations, enabling continuous learning of languages from the basic understanding to higher levels of communication. UNFPA in collaboration with A Drop in the Ocean continued to provide IT sessions for women. To inform migrants on the danger of land mines, IOM certified instructors, organized several ‘Mine awareness’ sessions in all temporary reception centres (TRCs) across BiH, in which a large number of migrants participated. Awareness sessions were held in both English and Arabic, while the migrants were also provided with leaflets containing information on mine awareness.

Recreational activities

In TRCs Blažuj and Ušivak, as part of the "Dispatches in Exile" project, photographic storytelling activities and educational sessions with expert trainers for migrants continued also in the month of July.

Lastly, a workshop on tie dyeing was organized in TRC Blažuj, which was attended by more than 25 migrants in a colourful clothing dyeing exercise. The workshop turned out to be both an educational and a playful opportunity to promote the well-being of the migrants residing in the centre.

On 21 July, Eid al-Adha was celebrated in all TRCs. IOM, the SFA, partner agencies, and donors organized various events, including the morning prayers, which were guided by the migrant communities of Islamic faith. Refreshments, sweets, traditional cakes, coffee, and tea were prepared in all centres. In TRC Miral, the migrants took the lead in preparing traditional sweets with the support of IOM.

HIGHLIGHTS

194 children participated in non-formal education activities organized by UNICEF/WV in SC and UNICEF/SCI in USC.

121 new children have been reached with the Akelius digital learning platform.

500 backpacks with school supplies distributed to the Ministries of Education of both SC and USC by UNICEF.
SAFETY AND SECURITY

IOM security staff are present daily in TRCs, working to prevent and respond to safety and security risks and incidents, in cooperation with the SFA inspectors and contracted private security guards. Inspections and internal investigations of thefts and misconduct are regularly carried out and recorded. Video surveillance or other distant monitoring mechanisms are in place in the TRCs. IOM Security Assistants (SA) regularly support outreach and DTM teams in field activities by providing guidance and support in the implementation of risks management measures and security protocols.

IOM continuously works on improving the security and safety measures in all TRCs by filling the gaps and proactively addressing recommendations. To increase the safety and protection of migrants, and prevent irregular entry / exits in the centre, IOM continued to work on the repair of the fence in several critical spots in TRC Miral. In addition, to provide additional protection, protective bars were installed on the windows of the laundry room.

Furthermore, as of 1 July, the IOM has made it possible to provide security services through a private company at the PC Lipa. Meanwhile, the IOM started to engage two other security guards per shift at TRC Lipa, for a total of four provided.

TRC incidents

A small incident occurred in TRC Borići, where a husband and wife who inquired about their personal belongings, which they claimed had been lost on the day of their transfer from TRC Sedra, began yelling and displaying violence against IOM staff. Back in their room, they started threatening to set fire to the centre and lit small fires with the lighter. Security personnel intervened immediately and put out all potential fires. The police were informed accordingly and both migrants were taken to the Psychiatry Department of the USC Cantonal Hospital.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

IOM has on-call mobile teams available 24/7 for assistance and transportation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. These include transportation for medical cases to hospitals, for children going to school, for vulnerable and injured persons heading to centres identified by outreach teams, for asylum-seekers going to asylum interviews, and for transfers at the request of the SFA.

In July, the transports organized, in both USC and SC, included 305 to medical facilities, 14 to SFA, 12 for education purposes, 18 outreach and 80 others (which also includes transports between TRCs). In addition to that, the IOM outreach teams carried out 335 transports for 1,052 migrants and asylum-seekers.

HIGHLIGHTS

764 transports carried out for 2,1811 migrants and asylum-seekers
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.
### Bosnia and Herzegovina without Una-Sana Canton

#### TOTALS

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#### Visegrad

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#### Who Does What and Where (MW)

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### Tank and nutrition

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