

6,480 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation

(this includes IOM Temporary Reception Centres, centres managed by the State, NGOs and those in private accommodation)

5 Temporary Reception Centres fully operational



Clearing process of leftover debris in former camp Lipa © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

IOM, humanitarian partners and the state authorities continued to work together to provide better living conditions to migrants in reception centres throughout the country, and provided assistance to those in informal accommodation in Una Sana Canton (USC). In provisional camp (PC) Lipa, where 758 migrants were accommodated at the end of the reporting period, the highlight of the week was the set-up of an isolation and quarantine area. The tents were donated and set up by humanitarian organization SOS Bihać. Registration activities continued by Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) during the reporting week, and in total 441 migrants were registered and issued registration cards, since the opening of the camp.

The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have been repairing the access road, while heated tents, meals, sanitary facilities, and medical care services continue to be improved. In order to ensure that migrants have access to better services in PC Lipa, the tents for dining and prayer area, which were donated by Istituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione ACLI (IPSIA), were installed and fully equipped during the reporting period. This included work on installation of wooden floors, roofs and side canvases.

In continuation to last week assessment of the former site Lipa by a recycling company, the clearing process of the leftover debris of material and equipment burnt during the fire started with the

support of IOM cleaning and maintenance staff and partner agencies.

The Temporary Reception Centres (TRC) remain overcrowded, and TRC Blazuj continues to host the highest number of migrants (3,084 on the last day of the reporting period). Although IOM, in coordination with the authorities, suspended registrations in this centre, accommodation was provided for vulnerable individuals, provided beds were available, while unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were moved to TRC Usivak.

Based on discussions held previously between IOM, the Ministry of Security and the Cantonal Police, to increase the security level of the centers, initial assessments were carried out by the Cantonal Police in TRC Blazuj. 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 week.

The outreach teams continued to support migrants sleeping rough in abandoned buildings and forests, and IOM transported three families from Velika Kladusa to family centres (TRC Sedra and Borici). In formal centres, IOM continued providing regular 24-hour assistance. TRC Borici held elections of the new representatives for the "Boys Parliament" representing UASC, with two from Afghanistan and one from Pakistan being elected.

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IOM RESPONSE

 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

During the reporting week, the Armed Forces of BiH continued with the construction work to improve access to PC Lipa from the main road. Other site improvements in PC Lipa included the establishment of a Covid-19 isolation tent by SOS Bihać. Further, the Red Cross received a 40 kW generator which will be used to provide electricity in the tent for the preparation of food distributions.

Furthermore, the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) visited PC Lipa with the contractor for a final assessment of setting up the medical corner, and the construction work started on 17 February.



Sand gravel distribution in PC Lipa access road © IOM 2021

In other formal TRCs, IOM continued providing shelter and non-food items to vulnerable groups and affected populations. In TRC Borici, reparation work of the roof and walls on the 3rd floor started, which were previously damaged by a windstorm, reducing the capacity of accommodation for migrants.

of NFIs distributed: 13,597

of people assisted with NFIs: 2,061

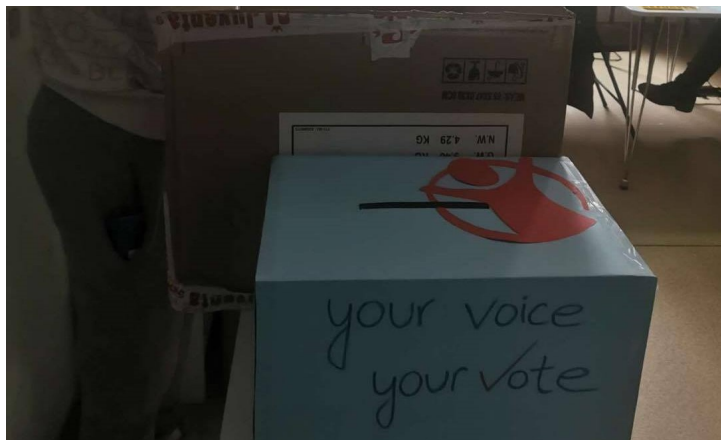


Cleaning action by IOM and partner agencies in former Lipa camp © IOM 2021

 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

In TRCs, CCCM coordination meetings were organized with all partner agencies, to effectively coordinate humanitarian assistance provided by all partners. In TRC Miral, one of the main topics discussed was provision of assistance to migrants in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), by a neuropsychiatrist from Bihać Cantonal Hospital, who will visit the centre twice a month. The Assisted Voluntary Return and Integration (AVRR) team will visit the centre to provide information on AVRR twice a week.

IOM also continued to encourage the centre population to play an active role in decision-making processes and activities that affect them through Community Representative Councils, and “Boys Parliament” meetings - to ensure that the views and needs of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are considered and discussed. In TRC Sedra, action points discussed were IOM and Save the Children to organize traditional cooking events for migrants, while during the Women's Committee meeting, held by IOM and UNFPA, discussions focused on the need to set up additional activities for women to spend time together and on the preparation of the International Women's Day celebrations.



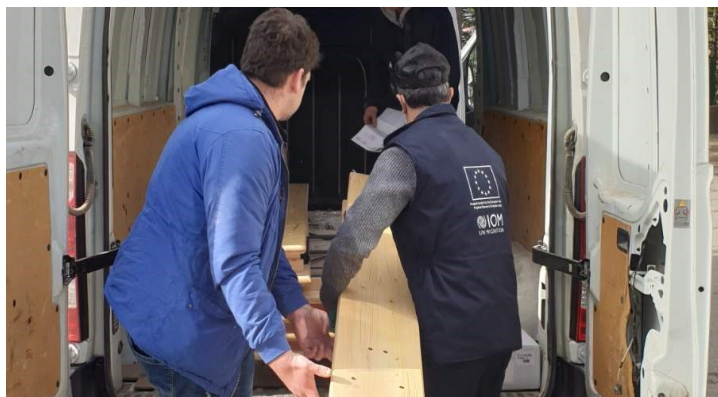
“Boys Parliament” elections in TRC Borici © IOM 2021

 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

All TRCs have functional laundry systems for the washing of bedding/sheets and the centre population's personal belongings. IOM dedicated significant efforts to maintenance and repair, particularly of WASH containers and infrastructure, as damages occur frequently in all TRC. Regular repairs and replacements on a daily/weekly basis include sink faucets, toilet tanks and pipes, shower faucets, flushers, and water taps. In TRC Sedra, during the reporting week, IOM maintenance staff completed a full inspection of the centre's sewage system, to ensure it is functioning properly.

of people assisted with laundry services: 1,371

of laundry bags washed: 1,670



Repairation works, TRC Borici © IOM 2021



FOOD AND NUTRITION

IOM and partners (Red Cross in Una-Sana Canton/Salakovac; and Pomozi.ba in Sarajevo Canton) continued to support the provision of three meals and two fruit snacks per day in all TRCs.

In USC, upon the request of the centre population, IOM made available open, fully equipped inner and outer kitchens for migrants to prepare their own food. In all TRCs, IOM continued to provide specialized food to migrants in need of specific dietary requirement upon a doctor’s recommendation/medical prescription, and others (eg. vegetarian, diabetic menus).

Baby formula and complementary baby food continued to be provided to babies below 24 months, prepared by Red Cross in line with UNICEF’s guidelines on child feeding.

of meals distributed: 51,655

MAIN GAPS

In the short term, main gaps are centred on food assistance across all TRCs, the improvement of living conditions in PC Lipa, procurement and distribution of non-food items suitable for winter; improvement of the sanitary conditions of those sleeping outside in the absence of appropriate accommodation options; and insufficient funds to cover expansions of TRCs and other needs.

In the medium to long term, main gaps concern data collection and analysis of all migrants present in BiH; capacity building of the State and the Cantonal authorities in screening, processing, managing accommodation and solutions for migrants; and the need for additional and more adequate accommodation facilities.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams continued to provide food and NFI packages, personal protective equipment and information on AVRR options to migrants residing in informal accommodation in USC (est. 1,500-2,000 live in makeshift shelters in forests and abandoned buildings) daily. The NFIs included clothes, hygiene items, sleeping bags, backpacks, shoes, jackets and raincoats. During the reporting period, the majority of migrants assisted were from Pakistan and Afghanistan followed by Bangladesh and Morocco. Three families residing in Velika Kladuša were transferred to and accommodated in TRC Sedra and Borici.

Outreach teams together with the help of migrants continue to conduct cleaning initiatives in areas surrounding abandoned buildings where migrants sleep.

of food packages distributed: 3,882

of Hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 1,070

SAFETY AND SECURITY

To contribute to safety and security of migrants in TRC Blazuj, a 250 meters protective fence was set up along the centre’s perimeter to substitute the previously damaged one. Furthermore, representatives from the Cantonal Police inspected TRC Blažuj to assess the centre’s security conditions and install surveillance cameras to increase safety and security of migrants as well as of the surrounding communities.

The local community continues to be dissatisfied with the situation, which resulted in several security incidents involving the IOM outreach team, where local citizens verbally attacked the team and attempted to interfere with IOM vehicle movements.



NFI distribution, TRC Miral © IOM 2021

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



 Austrian Development Agency

German Federal Agency for Technical Relief 

