

**3,825** migrants and asylum seekers accommodated in the official reception facilities

**1,737** number of beds available in the reception facilities

**3,220** migrants and asylum seekers outside of centres\*

**5** Temporary Reception Centres fully operational

**1,079** Assisted Voluntary Returns since 2018, of which **88** in 2021



Information on AVRR possibilities provided to migrants in PC Lipa © IOM 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

IOM Chief of Mission and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Country representative together with their respective operations staff held an online meeting to discuss common challenges related to outreach activities and find suitable solutions. Partners agreed that greater coordination is needed to streamline activities, especially due to existing restrictions in some outreach locations in Una-Sana Canton (USC), where humanitarian partners are not allowed to provide assistance, with the exception of the Red Cross Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

In order to enhance cooperation with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and contribute to greater ownership of the migration response, IOM appointed a Ministry of Security Liaison Officer for Sarajevo Canton. On 14 May, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) staff in TRC Blažuj held a meeting with IOM Liaison Officer to discuss enhanced cooperation between IOM and the Ministry of Security.

A second joint data collection exercise was conducted in collaboration with SFA on April 30, following IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology, to collect information on the number of migrants present in the country. A total of 3,314

migrants were identified in the 138 locations visited, of which 3,220 declared that they were not accommodated in any of the official temporary reception centres (TRCs) in BiH. Compared to the first round conducted in March 2021, the number of migrants observed is significantly higher. This is mostly due to the fact that the number of places visited has almost doubled, with more staff involved and greater capacities to cover new locations, thanks to the participation of the BiH Red Cross. The next joint exercise will provide an opportunity to further adjust the list of locations visited to systemize data collection activities while maintaining flexibility in the locations covered.

In parallel, IOM, its partners and the SFA - through outreach activities - are constantly working together to inform migrants living outside TRCs of the opportunities to be accommodated in one of its reception facilities, where they can access basic services such as shelter and WASH and also to be involved in various activities contributing to increased accountability. However, majority of migrants express the desire to stay outside the reception facilities with the intention of continuing their journey to cross the European Union (EU) border.

\* Number recorded by IOM DTM as of 30 April 2021

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## IOM RESPONSE



Work on the dining area in TRC Lipa © IOM 2021

 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

The past few days of constant rainfall have impeded the regular work on TRC Lipa, however the Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) contractor has progressed, albeit slower than planned. As the area of Lipa is on a slope terrain, each plateau must be levelled, and therefore the focus last week was on supporting walls and suppressing erosion of soil. The tender procedures were finalized, and the selected contractors were introduced on the scope of work and started to work on respective lots. The work in progress included supporting walls, secondary water network, dining and the kitchen area.

IOM arranged a pre-registration area for the new arrivals to TRC Sedra, to be accommodated while waiting for medical screening, with a total capacity of 148 beds. Moreover, the roof of the centre and the drains were thoroughly cleaned to minimize leaks inside the building, given the heavy rains of the previous days.

In order to increase security and safety of residents at TRC Ušivak, IOM maintenance staff started working on the installation of the pillars as a basis for the construction of the fence around the newly set up police container. The police will be present 24 hrs and the container will be placed outside of the centre. In TRC Blažuj, to improve the Wi-Fi connection for migrants, BH Telecom (internet company) adapted the system to connect three new antennas.

**# of NFIs distributed: 13,615**

**# of people assisted with NFIs: 1,187**

 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

During the CCCM coordination meeting in TRC Ušivak, IOM announced it will prepare and post the weekly menu in languages of the centres population, in the kitchen. IOM stressed the need to present updated services provided by partner agencies on the TV

screens in the centres' common areas for migrants to be informed. "Drop in the Ocean" organization reported on the smooth implementation of its new activity (ICT classes) with great interest of children and youth. They also expressed willingness to increase the number of women and girls participating, upon coordination with UNFPA.

Lastly, a focus group discussion was held with the women residing in TRC Ušivak, to better identify their needs and ask for feedback on the *Mother and Baby WASH* facility in order to draft the standard operating procedures for its use. It was agreed that the facility will be open between eight to ten hours per day, with the supervision of one IOM staff, whereas the migrant women from the centre will be responsible for cleaning of the facility with the provision of cleaning tools by IOM.



## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM dedicated significant efforts to maintenance and repair, particularly of WASH containers and infrastructure, as damages occur frequently in all TRCs. Last week the focus was on improving WASH services for migrants in Borići and Miral where several WASH inventory were replaced, such as shower hoses, water tanks etc. In TRC Sedra, IOM maintenance staff concluded the renovation works of the toilet in one room of the isolation area: a new boiler, toilet, pipes, and flusher were installed and is now fully operational.

**# of people assisted with laundry services: 1,333**

**# of laundry bags washed: 1,568**



## FOOD AND NUTRITION

At the Community Representative meeting in TRC Blažuj, IOM CCCM staff explained the need to reassess food quantities in order to avoid waste, to which the Representatives agreed. In TRC Miral, IOM organized a food event to exchange recipes and cultural experiences on traditional healthy food.

During the reporting period, IOM/Red Cross Outreach team distributed remaining 222 loaves of bread, 190 flat breads and 72 pies with meat, from TRCs Sedra and Borići to migrants residing in outside locations, with particular attention to families with children.

**# of meals distributed: 42,581**



Healthy Food Day organized in TRC Miral © IOM 2021

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

IOM/Red Cross Outreach teams continued to provide daily food and NFI packages including personal protective equipment, to migrants residing in informal accommodation in USC. They also distributed 348 anti-bacterial gels to migrants in USC outreach locations. In addition, the outreach team, with the support of Church World Service (CWS) and Save the Children International (SCI), distributed 260 food packages in outside locations in Bihac area.

On 15 May, IOM/Red Cross Outreach team provided food assistance to 31 migrants (30 adult males and one UASC) coming back from a border crossing attempt. They refused to be transported and accommodated in the TRC. Lastly, the IOM/Red Cross outreach team provided migrants with cleaning tools, as they expressed the desire to clean the surrounding area in various locations in Bihac.

# of food packages distributed: 2,186

# of hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 660

 SAFETY AND SECURITY

An incident occurred in TRC Sedra involving three UASC, who were refused entrance because they were under the influence of alcohol, and later attacked the centre’s security guards. The Police were informed accordingly.

23 migrants from Eritrea set up tents in front of the TRC Borići gate, with the intention of going for onward movement. They refused to be accommodated, despite IOM’s and DRC’s recommendation to move away from the centre’s gate to avoid Police intervention.



NFIs distributed in USC by Outreach team © IOM 2021

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

IOM’s AVRR outreach team was regularly present in TRC Blažuj and Miral, and twice a week also in PC Lipa, promoting migrants’ rights and informed decision-making by providing migrant families and individuals interested in voluntary return to their countries of origin with information and tailored individual counselling.

During the reporting period, 124 persons were reached with AVRR information (out of which 80 are staying outside TRCs).

Three migrants departed back to their countries of origin (India, Iraq, Pakistan), bringing the total number of persons returning to CoO in May to seven.

MAIN GAPS

In the short term, additional funding is required to procure food and NFIs, and to cover the construction and running costs for the new TRC Lipa. The improvement of the sanitary conditions for those sleeping outside in the absence of appropriate accommodation options, also a pressing concern.

In the medium to long term, the main gaps are capacity building for authorities in screening, processing, managing accommodation and identifying solutions for migrants, to contribute to the overarching goal of State ownership of the response, while ensuring the rights of migrants and asylum seekers are upheld. Further support is needed to systemize data collection activities on the number of migrants present outside the centres and to include other components related to further knowledge on migrants needs and vulnerabilities, including providing durable solutions in the form of voluntary returns.



AVRR posters in PC Lipa © IOM 2021

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :



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