

5,597 migrants and asylum seekers present at Temporary Reception Centres

5 Temporary Reception Centres fully operational



Provisional Camp Lipa, © IOM 2021



130%

ASSISTED: 26,000

TARGETED: 20,000

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Between 29 January and 4 February, IOM continued to provide technical support to Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) in the Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa, where the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) army set up 30 tents to accommodate 900 migrants. At the end of the reporting period, 898 migrants were accommodated at that site. IOM and humanitarian partners on the ground worked on improving living conditions in the camp, to ensure that migrants have access to basic services, for instance the setting up of additional heaters. Moreover, the BiH army continued construction work to improve the access to, and internal roads of, the PC Lipa. The Camp still lacks additional sanitary containers and generators, and further support is needed in order to set up isolation and quarantine areas, in line with recommendations from public health institutions.

In line with IOM advocating for sustainable solutions in the context of migration management, some of the capacity building efforts during the reporting period included successful training of SFA Field Assistants on several aspects of camp coordination and camp management. One of the highlights was the start of the registration process in the Provisional Camp Lipa, whereby IOM staff taught Field Assistants the process of registration and provision of ID cards and provided technical equipment (such as printers, laptops, camera, and laminating machine) for the purpose of registration. So far, 157 migrants were registered by SFA after the training.

Furthermore, a mobile team responsible for providing medical transportation was formed in PC Lipa. The team is composed of both IOM and SFA staff, and is operational 24 hours providing assistance to migrants.

Last week, several meetings were held with Cantonal and State authorities, where discussions centred on capacity building initiatives with the aim to handover management and full responsibility of the migration response to the State. The dialogue also focused on the inclusion of the Cantonal police in the Temporary Reception Centres (TRC), particularly in the Provisional Camp Lipa, to work with IOM, and lastly initiatives for social cohesion projects, which would include street lighting, roads, provision of vehicles and uniforms among others.

IOM teams continue working 24/7 to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants, and providing support to those sleeping outside in the Una-Sana Canton (USC). Given that TRC are overcrowded, and offer limited possibilities of adequate living conditions including physical distancing, IOM continues to advocate to find sustainable solutions and is pushing for authorities to take charge of the processing and accommodation of migrants.

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IOM RESPONSE



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM continued to work closely with SFA and provided technical assistance at the Provisional Camp Lipa. The Maintenance team continued to provide support with regular repairs, defrosting of pipes etc. Furthermore, 15 oil heaters were donated by the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW). IOM gave an induction to SFA on storage, servicing, and general handling of generators, heaters, power supply, fuel, and water pump control panel.

In formal TRCs, IOM continued providing shelter and non-food items to vulnerable groups and affected populations. Newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers in all TRCs were provided with NFIs containing clothing, footwear, hygiene products, clean bed sheets and linen upon arrival. Furthermore, all new arrivals who were in pre-registration waiting to be screened were provided with hygiene packages (including soap, shampoo, shower gel, toilet paper, tissues) as well as clothes if needed. During the reporting period, given the harsh weather conditions, and usage of heaters, many TRCs struggled with electric system overload resulting in frequent power outages and consequently impacting on migrants' living conditions in the centres.

of NFIs distributed: 9,681

of people assisted with NFIs: 2,042



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM worked closely with the EU and other stakeholders to identify solutions on additional accommodation spaces suitable to host migrants and asylum seekers. In TRCs CCCM coordination meetings were regularly organized with all partner agencies, including SFA, during the reporting period in order to effectively coordinate humanitarian assistance provided by all partners. In TRC Sedra discussions were held on strengthening the centre's preparedness for possible sudden emergency situations (e.g. earthquake, riots, etc.) based on most recent experiences. At the same time, CCCM highlighted the need to provide increased Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sessions to migrants in order to treat anxiety and depression disorders. In TRC Blazuj, during the CCCM coordination meeting, partners agreed to suspend the registration and accommodation of new arrivals as the center is overcrowded, hence lacking adequate living conditions for migrants. IOM also continued to actively encourage the centre population to play an active role in decision-making process 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 all TRCs, IOM continued to run info-desks, as reference points where the centre population can ask general questions and access information about available assistance and protection services within and outside of the TRCs.



Provisional Camp Lipa © IOM 2021



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM continued to provide safe water, water tanks, and hygiene kits to migrants and asylum seekers across five TRC, and closely coordinated with SFA on the provision of maintenance for the sanitary containers in the provisional camp Lipa. Last week, IOM Maintenance staff defrosted water pipes which supply sanitary containers with water.

Hygiene awareness raising activities, which incorporate mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, were regularly held. IOM also 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. All TRC have functional laundry systems for the washing of TRC bedding/sheets and the centre population's personal belongings. In TRC Sedra, two new sanitary containers were provided with the aim to increase the Covid-19 isolation area capacity and two additional washing machines were moved from Bira warehouse to increase the centre's WASH facilities. Furthermore, six water heaters were delivered to TRC Miral and installed in sanitary containers to provide hot water to migrants residing in the centre.

of people assisted with laundry services: 1,878

of laundry bags washed: 2,064



TRC Blazuj, Cleaning initiatives © 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 TRC. In USC, upon the request of the centre population, IOM made available open, fully equipped kitchens for migrants to prepare their own food. On a regular basis, all TRC are inspected by the BiH Public Health Institute to test the quality of food provided to migrants through samples for microbiological analysis. In all TRC, IOM provided specialized food to migrants in need of specific dietary requirement (eg. vegetarian, diabetic menus). Special complementary food to babies below 24 months, which was prepared by Red Cross in line with UNICEF's guidelines on child feeding, was provided in TRC Sedra, Borići, Usivak and Salakovac.

of meals distributed: 65,035



Temperature measurement prior to NFI distribution in TRC Usivak © IOM

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams continued to provide food and NFI packages, personal protective equipment and information on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) options to migrants residing in informal accommodation in Una-Sana Canton (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 Afghanistan and Pakistan, followed by Algeria and Bangladesh. On some days, officers from Centre for Social Work were present together with IOM during outreach activities to support unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) if needed.

Three emergency calls were received by both IOM and the Mountain Rescue Team at night when migrants attempted onward movement, to provide assistance to migrants in difficulties due to the harsh weather conditions.

During the weekend of 30 and 31 January, outreach teams raised awareness on the importance of hygiene through distribution of waste collection items to migrants (such as garbage bags, gloves and brooms). These activities will continue more intensively in early spring.

of food packages distributed: 4,695

of Hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 1,090



IOM Outreach activities in Una Sana Canton © IOM 2021

MAIN GAPS

In the short term, main gaps remain the improvement of living conditions in PC Lipa, procurement and distribution of food and 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 TRC 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 additional and more adequate accommodation facilities.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :

