

4,991 migrants and asylum seekers assisted with accommodation

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

1,754 migrants and asylum seekers outside of centres

provisional number tracked by DTM in a pilot exercise

5 Temporary Reception Centres fully operational



130%

ASSISTED: 26,000

TARGETED: 20,000



IOM updating Minister of Security and SFA on the construction work developments in TRC Lipa © IOM 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

During the reporting week, IOM and representatives of Ministry of Security and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) met at the new Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Lipa to discuss future developments in the new reception centre. IOM presented the construction plans for the reconstruction at Lipa, in line with minimum humanitarian SPHERE standards. Participants were informed on the execution schedule, the tenders, and the budget necessary to complete the work. Furthermore, discussion articulated on the ways in which the Ministry of Security could help and on the timing for the transfer of migrants and asylum seekers from Provisional Camp (PC) Lipa to the new TRC Lipa.

The epidemiological situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continued to cause general concern among the authorities, with restrictions imposed at both entity and cantonal level. As a result, IOM continued to pay attention to COVID-19 prevention measures, such as increased disinfection and hygiene level in the centres, and reiterated mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Community Representatives in TRC Miral and Sedra were briefed on the Ministry of Health's current COVID-19 measures and recommendations, which suspended all unnecessary activities, given the current COVID-19 situation.

IOM and partner agencies closely monitored health conditions of migrants and asylum seekers. All the confirmed cases were accommodated in the COVID-19 quarantine areas in each TRC.

TRC Miral and Sedra in Una-Sana Canton (USC) have been placed under a 14-day lockdown, following the decision of the USC Ministry of Health, in coordination with the Institute of Public Health. Meanwhile, TRC Borići, which had been subjected to restrictions in the previous two weeks, ended the lockdown without further restrictions. Mass COVID-19 testing was conducted in TRC Miral on 27 and 28 March, with a total of 745 migrants and asylum seekers tested in collaboration with the USC Institute of Public Health, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and IOM, while the centre's staff will be tested in the coming week. Finally, the 9pm-5am curfew continued in Sarajevo Canton with only grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations open.

On 23 March, a meeting was held between SFA and IOM on the operational challenges PC Lipa is facing, where various issues were discussed. For instance, some migrants and asylum seekers arrive to the camp after the food distribution hours, hence it was agreed that IOM will distribute 50 food packages daily, to be distributed to those who arrive at the camp in late hours. On 24 March, a regional outreach meeting, called by the Advisor to State Minister for Security and chaired by USC Prime Minister, took place to discuss the need to improve overall coordination mechanisms in outreach activities between authorities, civil sector and UN including IOM. Humanitarian actors took the chance to reiterate concern on the restrictions imposed by municipal authorities, which are impeding them to provide assistance to approx. 650 migrants outside formal accommodation in locations in Bihac and some in Velika Kladuša.

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IOM RESPONSE



Distribution of board games in TRC Miral © IOM, 2021

 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

IOM together with partners, continued to provide technical support to SFA in PC Lipa. During the reporting period, the technical inspection with acceptance of the works for the repair of six offices and one sanitary container at new TRC Lipa was finalized between Technisches Hilfswerk (THW), local company, and IOM. The repaired containers will be used in the new TRC as follows: a single container for security staff, a double container as conference room for all partner agencies, single containers for each -the THW, IOM, SFA, and one is a sanitary container. Furthermore, IOM procured office supplies, such as laminating machine for registration process, stationary, and ink for printing among some items for SFA.

In TRC Sedra, the medical container for examinations, which was placed in the isolation area (transported from TRC Bira), was made fully operational. IOM repaired electrical cabinets in the symptomatic isolation area, in order to install water heater and replaced the same in the laundry room. In TRC Ušivak, construction works for the set-up of a new Mother and Baby WASH facility and for a new container that will be used as isolation, started and the concrete foundation was finalized. In TRC Miral, 130 mattresses were delivered to the centre and will be used in the isolation area.

Finally, in TRC Blažuj, IOM focused on increasing the isolation space: the work for the preparation of the plateau where 20 containers will be set up and used as isolation area started, and an old info container was refurbished to be used as a COVID-19 isolation centre. Furthermore, the three sanitary containers which were out of order since January, were repaired and are fully operational.

of NFIs distributed: 11,733

of people assisted with NFIs: 1,492

 CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

CCCM coordination meetings were organized in the TRCs with all partner agencies including SFA, to effectively coordinate humanitarian assistance provided by all partners. The discussions focused on the need to develop contingency plans for activities in the event of a new lockdown in TRC Borići and Sedra. In TRC Sedra partners discussed to reschedule activities accordingly, for instance by providing individual sessions instead of group sessions; and discussed the issue of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) being unable to go to scheduled interviews with the Ministry of Security for the asylum application procedure due to the restrictions. In TRC Ušivak, new partner "A drop in the Ocean", officially announced they will start with its activities -provision of IT courses to migrants and asylum seekers, on 1 April 2021.

In TRC Borići, during the Feedback and Complaint Committee meeting, migrants and asylum seekers were informed that during the next Community Representatives meeting, they will be given guidance on how to submit a written complaint containing all relevant information for their complaints to be adequately followed up upon.



Community Representative Meeting in TRC Sedra © IOM, 2021

 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. For instance, in TRC Sedra, parts of the roof and drains were cleaned in order to minimize leaks in the restaurant and the main lobby. In TRC Blažuj, toilets in sanitary containers were unclogged; the sewage pipes were repaired; and the sewage drains near the laundry room were cleaned. Lastly, in TRC Miral, a water heater was delivered to be installed in a sanitary container, which will be used by migrants and asylum seekers in the isolation area.

of people assisted with laundry services: 1,499

of laundry bags washed: 1,838

 **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 and to make available open, fully equipped inner and outer kitchens for migrants to prepare their own food. In PC Lipa food is provided by Red Cross Bihac and USC.

In TRC Sedra and Miral, additional vitamin intake through fruits and vegetables for the whole population was ensured, based on the recommendations from the medical doctor working in these centres, with a special focus on migrants and asylum seekers in isolation areas. A new plan with increased quantities of fruits was shared by IOM Food Focal Point with the partners who provide food.

of meals distributed: 53,703

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

IOM/Red Cross outreach teams continued to provide food and NFI packages, PPE and information on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) options to migrants residing in informal accommodation in Una-Sana Canton daily. The NFIs included clothes, hygiene items, sleeping bags, backpacks, shoes, jackets and raincoats. On a regular basis, the outreach teams distribute PPE, such as facial masks, single use gloves, and disinfection gels, and cleaning tools to migrants residing in squats, as part of COVID-19 response.

During the reporting period, IOM's outreach team distributed 210 cooked meals (such as rice, chicken, and beans) to migrants and asylum seekers, donated by the local restaurant "Lovac", in Bihac area, and 354 winter clothing kits donated by Humanity First organization. Additionally, to overcome the absence of WASH facilities in outreach locations, 904 biodegradable wet wipes and 100 anti-bacterial gels for personal use by the

MAIN GAPS

In the short term, main gap is funds to cover construction and running costs for the new site TRC Lipa, procurement of food and non-food items; 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 COVID-19 related needs.

In the medium to long term, main gaps are capacity building of authorities in screening, processing, managing accommodation and solutions for migrants, to contribute to the overarching goal-the State to take full ownership of the response, while ensuring the rights of migrants and asylum seekers are upheld. Further support is needed to systemize data collection activity on the number of migrants present outside the centres to be able to continue with activities at least once a month and to include other components related to further knowledge on migrants needs and vulnerabilities.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :




Non-food items distributed during outreach © IOM 2021

IOM thanks to the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) project. Lastly, IOM's Outreach team delivered 70 food packages to the SFA at PC Lipa, for migrants and asylum seekers arriving at the camp outside food distribution hours.

of food packages distributed: 3,283

of Hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 951

 **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

To increase monitoring of migrants and asylum seekers who are currently in isolation areas, IOM hired additional security staff (6 in Miral and 1 in Sedra). Furthermore, IOM reiterated to migrants and asylum seekers to strictly follow COVID-19 prevention measures, and as such abstaining from any close communication and exchange of personal belonging over the fence with migrants outside the centre to avoid transmission of the COVID-19 virus.



Conference room set up in a double container in TRC Lipa © IOM 2021