

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

1 – 31 December 2019

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human rights, Dunja Mijatovic visited Bosnia and Herzegovina from 02-05 December. Full report [here](#).

On 10 December the makeshift camp of Vučjak closed, following the relocation of 745 persons to TRC Ušivak and the new Sarajevo TRC, Blažuj.

On 16 December, BiH delegation, including officials from the Ministry of Human Right and Refugees and the Ministry of Security participated in the Global Refugee Forum. For more information, please click [here](#).

## KEY INDICATORS

**1,800**

estimated population outside formal accommodation - end of December 2019

**5,341**

Number of people assisted in formal accommodation sites (gov. and IOM run centres, NGO and formal private accommodation) - end of December 2019

**6,288**

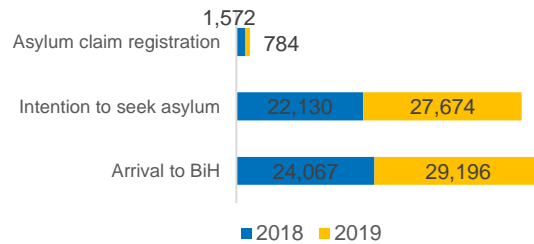
Medical check-ups conducted - December 2019

## ACCESS TO ASYLUM

**2,356 Asylum claim registrations**

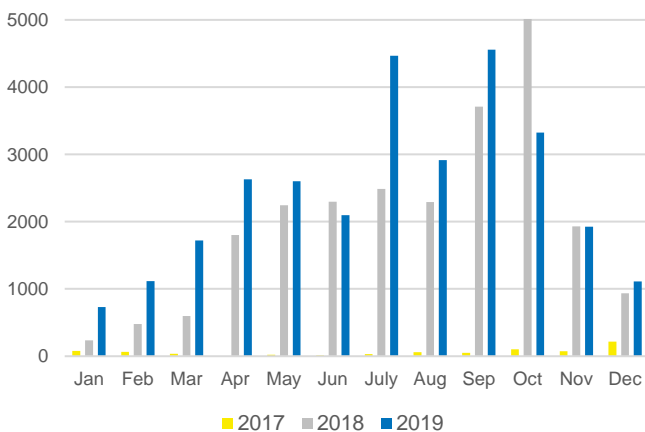
1 January 2018 – 30 December 2019

People who have expressed an intention to seek asylum must wait for the Sector for Asylum to invite them for an asylum registration interview. A prerequisite for this invitation, is either registration of residence (10 BAM with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs) or residence in one of the official reception centres. Those without registration of residence will not be considered for an interview.



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Number of detected asylum seeker and migrant arrivals to BiH per month



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

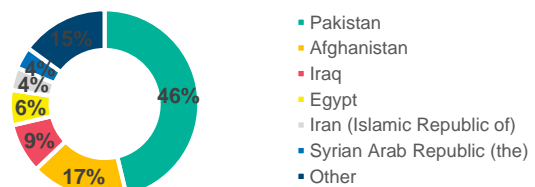
**23%**

assisted asylum seeker and migrant population in BiH belonging to family groups at the end of December 2019

**583**

UASC assisted by UN and partners in December 2019, of which 39 boys under the age of 15

Most frequent declared country of origin of asylum seekers and migrants assisted by UN and partners in BiH at the end of December 2019.



## Priorities and key gaps

### Shelter:

- Urgent need for relevant authorities to identify additional sites/increasing capacities for accommodation solutions, preferably outside of USC, including for single males and protection-sensitive accommodation for vulnerable groups, in particular for UASC, LGBTI, GBV survivors and those at risk of GBV.
- Contingency planning and preparation to collectively and rapidly deploy staff and resources once new accommodation sites are identified.
- Advocate for streamlined and accelerated referral mechanisms to both the Delijaš Asylum Centre (AC) and the Salakovac Refugee Reception Centre (RRC) with the Ministry of Security (MoS).

### Protection:

#### **International protection, documentation, and free legal aid**

- Advocate for improved asylum and migration management respecting all international and national human rights standards.
- Improve access to fair and efficient asylum procedures through a range of advocacy measures.
- Facilitate access to legal pathways and durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.
- Enhance the quality of legal advice to UASC, legal guardians and CPOs, including the development of child-friendly brochures on legal pathways for UASC in the country.

#### **Protection environment and protection services inside TRCs**

- Establish pre-registration area with designated zone for vulnerable categories in all Temporary Reception Centres (TRC). Ensure early identification of the specific protection needs and risks vulnerable groups face upon arrival to the centres.
- Increase the number of cultural mediators/interpreters/translators to support actors in their work and facilitate migrant, asylum seeker, and refugee access to information and services; include more women mediators/interpreters.
- Ensure continued rolling of MHPSS activities in the TRCs in USC and SC as these have proved essential, especially during the longer stay of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (including single male population) in collective type of accommodation and/or upon exposure to physical hardships.
- Enhance protection sensitive monitoring of entries into and exits from TRCs to ensure the wellbeing, safety and security of centres' population.
- Establish child safeguarding policies and adequately child-protection-trained personnel in all TRCs and outreach.

#### **Protection environment outside TRCs and protection outreach**

- Continue to advocate for the respect of freedom of movement of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees both within and to Una-Sana Canton (USC).
- Increase outreach activities and services to ensure an enhanced protection environment and humanitarian assistance for those outside of reception centres and for those denied entry into USC and in other parts of the country.

- Seek the termination of the disembarkation of UASC arriving to USC via Ključ and the delay of their referrals for appropriate accommodation and basic services.
- Reinforce referral and case management mechanisms for protection services for migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees residing outside of TRCs.
- Continually mapping locations where migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees congregate outside of TRCs to better understand their extent, their needs, and to support protection outreach and the provision of humanitarian assistance.
- Strengthen mechanisms for the provision of urgent humanitarian support – such as food, water, and first aid - to migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in transit in BiH.
- Establishing the National Outreach Protection Coordination Group (ensuring coordinated basic assistance, protection, monitoring and advocacy for and on behalf of refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers living outside of established reception facilities, and therefore unable to access assistance provided in these centres).
- Enhance Border Protection Monitoring mechanisms to strengthen the identification and documentation of human rights violations and identify channels for targeted legal action.

### **Child protection**

- Advocate and work with Centres for Social Work (CSW) for solutions to foster families for UASC and use of available accommodation facilities for care of UASC.
- Capacitate CSWs to conduct best interest assessment (BIA) and best interest determination (BID) of refugee and asylum-seeker children.
- Ensure access of UASC to education, recreational activities, psychosocial support and free legal aid and information.
- Increase the capacities for guardianship and child protection in Una-Sana and Sarajevo cantons to enable adequate BIA/BID, case management, individual care plan and provision of services for every UASC.
- Ensure timely guardianship appointments for UASC and ensure the guardians are fully capacitated to perform their roles and responsibilities of legal guardians.
- Establish common agreement on procedures for accommodating UASC in the Miral TRC.
- Enhance reception capacities for UASC at the Miral TRC, including the provision of basic services, a designated zone, and regularly register UASC on the site to ensure access to these basic services and protection.
- Seek and implement solutions to better cope with the high number of arrivals of UASC and the high turnover of this category.
- Ensure the presence of child protection mobile teams at points of entry into to USC.
- Strengthen outreach work by deploying additional workforce to support CSWs.
- Develop tools and build the capacity of the SFA to properly identify UASC/conduct age assessments where needed and foster cooperation between the SFA and CSW to improve UASC identification.
- Seek and implement a solution vis-à-vis the increased number of 'fake family compositions' with at least one UASC who is instrumentalized for favourable accommodation.
- Ensure ways to handle the issue of UASC who prefer to be accommodated in Blažuj; there is a need for a best interest assessment and the immediate appointment of guardianship.

### **Extremely vulnerable individuals and GBV prevention and response**

- Follow-up on the implementation of gender-based violence (GBV) safety audits in the Sedra and Borići TRCs and conduct GBV safety audits in the Bira TRC.
- Further coordinate GBV prevention and response by prioritizing inter-agency GBV case management, requiring updated referral pathways and the utilization of available GBV services inside of and outside of TRCs.
- Assist the Federation of BiH Ministry of Health (MoH) and the USC MoH and Social Policy to strengthen healthcare professional preparedness vis-à-vis the revision and implementation of the upcoming protocol on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) for Una-Sana and Sarajevo cantons.
- Continue to collect and analyse input on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and GBV training needs, gather and distribute online training links on PSEA and GBV, and coordinate the organization of trainings.
- Assist members of the GBV Working Group (WG) to adapt international tools for recording, storage, and exchange of information among key humanitarian services using elements of the GBV Information Management System (IMS).

### **Health:**

#### **Primary and Secondary Healthcare**

- Further strengthen referral mechanisms for healthcare services for migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees outside of TRCs and ensure solutions are in place for the provision of healthcare to all, irrespective of legal status – specific solutions need to be found for those who take measures to minimize their visibility.
- Continue provision of the first aid in outreach to relieve pressure on medical teams in TRCs and health care institutions, including weekends and to provide at least basic care on the weekends.
- Streamline and enhance mechanism of dealing with complex health cases BiH wide – collaboration should be strengthened in seeking solutions.
- Increase and improve quarantine capacities in all the temporary reception centres as to enable full application and adherence of already developed SoPs.
- Raise awareness about personal hygiene and overall sanitation in TRCs; increase adherence to all developed protocols to avoid larger health care concerns typical for winter conditions and act in line with cost-effectiveness.

#### **Mental Healthcare Services**

- Seek solutions to address gaps in provision and availability of services for patients with mental health problems and those in need for extended rehabilitation therapy, as well as for patients-substance users.

#### **Paediatric Healthcare**

- Ensure dentistry for migrant, asylum seeker, and refugee children
- Seek sustainable resources to ensure that all new-born migrant, asylum seeker, and refugee children have access to full a vaccination programme, as well as that all children have access to regular vaccination according to the national vaccination schedule.
- Continue to raise awareness of the importance of immunization among parents and the community.
- Increase and improve quarantine space for UASC and families with children.

- Capacitate local Primary Health Centres (e.g PHC Bihac) to respond to a larger need for medical examinations (laboratory analyses and microbiology tests of various specimen) for primary school children prior to school enrolment, as well as for full scope immunisation calendar.

### **Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare**

- Continued monitoring and improved access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.
- Continuous sensitization of humanitarian staff and training in survivor centred GBV response and SEA principles.
- Ensure use of the SOP for Multi-sectoral Coordination, Prevention, and Provision of Services to Survivors of Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) in Una-Sana and Sarajevo cantons.
- Assist MoH FBiH and the MoH and Social Policy of USC in strengthening preparedness of healthcare professionals in revision and implementation of upcoming protocol on CMR for USC.

### **NFI:**

- Make additional NFIs available to meet the needs of the increased number of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.

### **WASH:**

- Increase the availability of WASH services to those residing outside of TRCs.
- Seek and implement solutions to reduce damage caused by migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to WASH facilities in the Miral and Bira TRCs.
- Ensure sufficient hot water in the Sedra and Bira TRCs.

### **Food:**

- Improve the system of complementary nutrition for young children and pregnant and lactating women in the Bira and Borići TRCs.
- Improve coordination between health actors and the Red Cross to ensure that doctors' prescriptions of special dietary requirements can be followed in a timely manner.

### **Education and Leisure:**

- Intensify efforts to integrate primary-school age UASC into formal education.
- Advocate for all children older than 15 to have access to high school education and learning.
- Advocate for approval from the government of HNC for all asylum seeker children in Salakovac to access primary education in the public education system. (Approval by the cantonal government for this remains pending.)

### **Durable solutions and social cohesion:**

- Advocate for and support the authorities to plan and implement holistic policies and programmes directed at the local integration of persons granted international protection in BiH.
- Seek additional funding to properly support initiatives aimed at promoting social cohesion and interactions between migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and the local population in host communities, especially for initiatives engaging single men.

**Security and safety:**

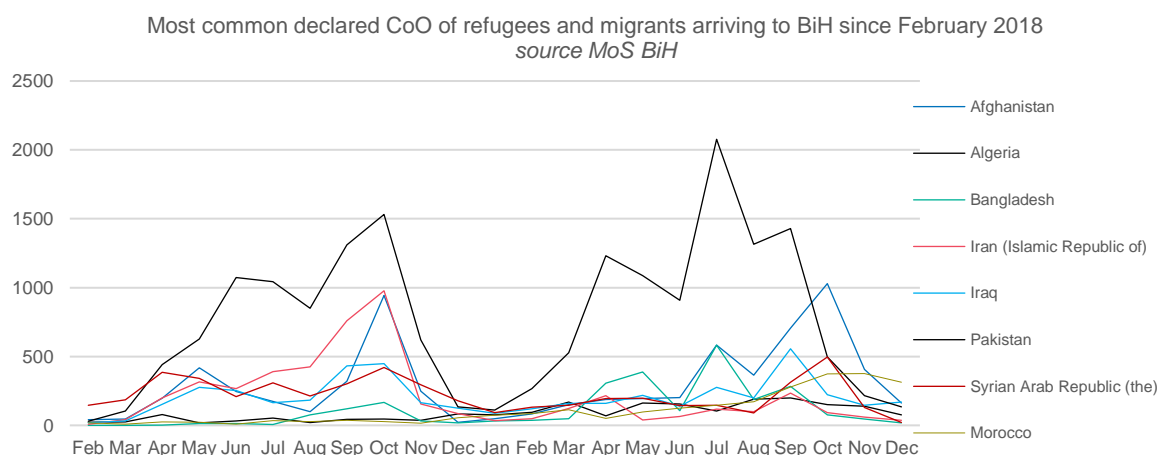
- Continuously work to improve the security situation in the Miral and Bira TRCs focussing on non-security and preventative measures, such as leisure activities, psychosocial support etc. as currently capacities only allow for limited services.

**Key Updates and Operational Context by Sector**

**Population:**

The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) detected the arrival of 53,263 migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to the country between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019 – an average of over 2,200 per month. The majority continue to arrive overland in an irregular manner (i.e. at non-official border crossings) at several entry points. It is estimated that about 8,000 migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees remain in BiH in need of a range humanitarian assistance at various locations, especially in Sarajevo and USC. The latter location continues to be linked to attempts to enter Croatia and the European Union. Migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in transit through those locations as well as in other parts of BiH are in need of humanitarian support. More detailed population estimates with age, gender, and location information are available in the 3W table towards the end of this document.

In December 2019, the largest declared Country of Origin (CoO) among newly arriving migrants and asylum seekers was Morocco (28 per cent), followed by Iraq (15 per cent), Afghanistan (15 per cent), Pakistan (12 per cent), Algeria (seven per cent), and Turkey (six per cent). The composition of arrivals – according to declared CoO – varies over time, as shown in the below chart:



**CCCM**

The month of December was marked by the closure of Vučjak, following a large-scale relocation of 745 migrants in 15 buses from the Vučjak site to Ušivak and the new accommodation site in Blažuj, Sarajevo Canton.

The agreement for the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs and IOM, to administer and manage the new Blažuj site, Sarajevo Canton, was reached and signed on 9 December, by the BiH Ministry of Security, the BiH Ministry of Defence and the Government of the Federation of BiH. IOM was provided with full

access and permission to utilize the site for migrant reception and accommodation. With the extreme pressure to expand capacities to be able to accommodate migrants relocated from Vučjak, [IOM together with the local NGO Pomozi.ba worked overnight to rapidly prepare one of the facilities in Blažuj for the provisional accommodation of migrants, until the site is fully equipped.](#)

[The relocation took place the day after, on the 10 December 2019, where IOM together with UNHCR, DRC, Save the Children, JRS and the Red Cross deployed staff to the site supporting authorities in the transfer through ensuring the voluntarily movement of persons and assessment of their protection needs.](#)

[With support of the EU and the German Federal Civil Protection Agency, IOM throughout December worked to fully operationalize the site. A more in-detail description of activities is described under shelter, with major works including the installation of housing containers, connection to electricity and water infrastructures.](#)

[IOM Centre Management staff led CCCM meetings in the Bira, Borići, Miral, Sedra, and Ušivak TRCs with the participation of all partner agencies. One of the key discussions points in December was to limit unauthorized entries to the TRCs and between the quarantines and the general TRC areas. Miral and Bira introduced temporary ID cards for persons in quarantine as a solution that would limit the spread of infectious diseases amongst the centre population, while also limiting unauthorized entries to the pre-screening and quarantine areas.](#)

House rules and inter-agency complaint and feedback mechanisms are in place in all TRCs and continued to be improved and amended together with partner agencies. [Community Feedback Committees are established in all TRCs](#), with representation of IOM CCCM staff, partner agencies, and the centre population main nationalities represented. They are responsible for the regular review and follow-up on feedback received through the mentioned mechanism. The MHRR run Reception Centre in Salakovac had reactivated the Council of the Reception Centre beneficiaries and had representatives from each accommodation building discussing their needs. The bi-weekly meetings of the Council are convened and chaired by the MHRR/manager of the RC with participation of UNHCR, BHWI and VP.

[Community Representative Councils meetings are also held.](#) These councils' meetings are organized by IOM with partner agencies, [serving as a platform for discussion of TRC issues, dialogue between centre populations and centre management](#), and for conflict prevention and resolution. Council meetings should be held weekly; however, this has not always been possible either because both partner organizations were unavailable to participate, or elected community leaders attempted to move onwards. In December, Council meetings took place in Sedra, Borići, and Ušivak TRCs. Aside from regular operational discussions, one of the main topics was the increased protection of UASC.

[In order to improve the living conditions of UASC in Bira TRC, and as the number is increasing IOM initiated "Boys Parliament" meetings in cooperation with SCI, where UASC representatives could have the opportunity to discuss topics of their interest. In December, IOM took the opportunity to present new rules regarding entering and exiting the UASC area and advised UASC to return to their designated area by 23:00.](#)

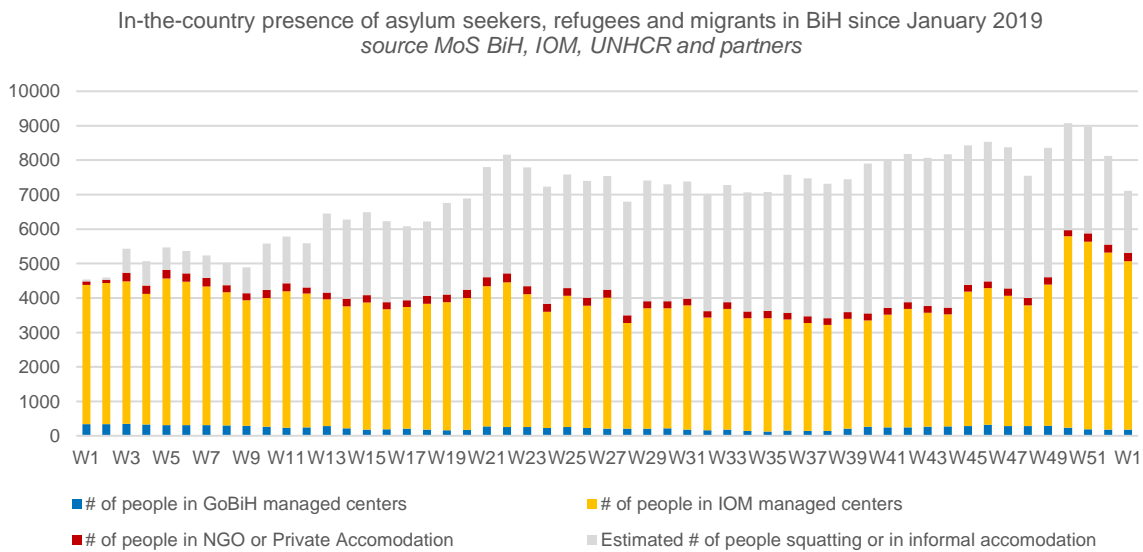
[IOM also established and has been running info-desks in the Sedra, Bira, Borići, Miral, and Ušivak TRCs.](#) Those are points where the centre populations can access information about available

assistance and protection services within and outside of the TRCs and ask questions, submit feedback and complaints, or report incidents. There is also a platform used by IOM TRC management and other partner agencies used to communicate and share information and updates with the TRC populations. IOM has been screening a video containing house rules, service schedules and similar relevant information on the public TV displays in TRCs in USC.

IOM has conducted comprehensive beneficiary satisfaction surveys on a monthly basis<sup>1</sup>. From November onwards, these surveys will be conducted on a quarterly basis allowing for a larger sample representative of all main nationalities and demographic groups. Surveys are anonymous and capture the satisfaction of all services provided in the centres.

**Accommodation/Shelter**

As of 31 December, the maximum available capacity across eight formal and informal centres in BiH (USC, Sarajevo Canton, and HNC) was 4,175, not including safe accommodation made available to a limited number of particularly vulnerable cases or spaces in the Immigration Centre. The approved capacity limit of 3,200 migrants and asylum seekers in USC remained unchanged, effectively reducing the overall capacity in the country and in USC – for example the Bira TRC has a maximum approved capacity of 1,500 beds but could potentially host up to 2,000 people.



A notable increase with regard to the large number of families with children and UASC arriving to the TRCs in December, some of whom could not be accommodated, once again highlighted the need for additional appropriate protection-sensitive accommodation capacity. At the same time, the Delijaš Asylum Centre, with a capacity of 154 persons, hosted only 17 persons, and the Salakovac Refugee Reception Centre, with a capacity of 213 persons, hosted only 111.

<sup>1</sup> Data for the monthly reports are based on data from the 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the current month approximately.



Given the discrepancy between suitable accommodation and the population in-country, an unidentified number of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees are privately accommodated, sleeping rough, or squatting, primarily in USC and to a lesser degree in Sarajevo and Tuzla Canton.

UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, and Save the Children, in collaboration with other actors on the ground, work to identify, profile, and prioritize cases for referral to appropriate spaces, as available.

At the end of the month (31 December), 5,433 migrants, asylum seekers and refugees were accommodated in Temporary Reception Centres supported by the action (excluding the State managed centres and NGO-managed Safe Houses). While the new accommodation site Blažuj gradually increased its capacity, IOM sought temporary solutions in existing centres in order to be able to accommodate all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in need. While Sedra and Borići TRCs, designated for families and vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, had a few rooms and beds available, centres for single men, particularly Bira and Ušivak were well beyond its capacity. Ušivak with a capacity of 800 persons provided accommodation to over 1,300 and Bira, with an official capacity of 1,500, provided accommodation to 2,242 persons. At the end of the month, 72% of persons accommodated in TRCs were single men, 9% adult family members, 7% children in families, and 12% unaccompanied children.

In December, IOM continued to receive a high number of requests from the SFA for IOM to transport people back to the TRCs in USC following failed attempts to cross the border (taking up a significant share of IOM centre staff time to the detriment of their presence in the TRCs).

IOM maintenance staff constantly work to improve the TRCs, repairing and replacing facilities. A more detailed information on each follows below.

### **The below accommodation and shelter were available in BiH in December:**

#### **Sarajevo Canton**

**The Ušivak TRC (opened in October 2018)**, in Hadžići Municipality, is a mixed profile centre, predominantly for single men, but also for families and vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. The centre is managed by the SFA, with support provided by IOM who oversees the daily running of the centre in coordination with partners providing other services. IOM CCCM staff and security personnel are present 24/7. The Ušivak TRC currently provides up-to 800 beds.

At the end of December, the site hosted 1,327 migrants and asylum seekers. The centre was at full throughout the month, as more than half of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees from Vučjak were initially taken to Ušivak.

In December, the new building in Ušivak TRC was fully operational and ready to accommodate families (approximately 200 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers). Therefore, the freed-up space in containers was used to accommodate 200 single men from the pre- registration area, in order to make space in that area for the 390 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who arrived from Vučjak.

**The Blažuj TRC (opened on December 10)**, is predominantly for single men. The centre is managed by the SFA, with support provided by IOM who oversees the daily running of the centre. IOM CCCM staff and security personnel are present 24/7.

Throughout December IOM worked to fully operationalize the site so that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees can have the same standards and services provided as in other TRCs. IOM finished

setting up 100 containers: 94 housing containers, two for accommodation of UASC, two for medical purposes, two for quarantine, one for an info desk and one container for counselling and interviewing of AVRR beneficiaries. The focus was also on reconstruction of the roof and works to provide space for kitchen, dining area and a separate space for distribution of NFIs.

Besides works on infrastructure this also involved setting up the registration and administration system of the site. IOM procured printers, laptops, cameras, laminating machines and other items needed for registration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Electricity was provided to all containers through installed generators, and a temporary corner for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to charge their phones was set-up. Water was provided through the neighbouring local water system; however, it is planned for the site to shortly be connected to the public water supply.

At the end of December, the site hosted 425 migrants and asylum seekers.

**The Delijaš Asylum Centre (AC)** (in operation since 2014), in [Trnovo Municipality](#), exclusively accommodates individuals who have sought asylum in BiH and is managed by the SA of the MoS, with management, services – including free legal aid, psychosocial support, and primary healthcare - and running costs supported through a partnership with UNHCR. [The Delijaš AC has a maximum capacity of 154 spaces.](#)

[At the end of December, 17 asylum seekers were accommodated at the Delijaš AC.](#) Referrals to the centre are limited by strict conditions put in place by the SA of the MoS. On occasion, asylum seekers refuse to be accommodated there, among other factors, because the remote location of the AC. [In particular, complaints have been made about the lack of internet, the poor telephone reception at the location, and the lack of sufficient transportation.](#)

**An additional location in Sarajevo, called House of All**, managed by independent volunteers, continued to offer accommodation for up to 90 people in Sarajevo, largely to families, and provides several key services to residents. VP, BHWI and DRC, respectively, provide free legal aid, psychosocial support and health care assistance to the residents.

### **Una-Sana Canton**

The SFA has dedicated focal points at Sedra and Borići TRC, while IOM continues to support the management and coordination of the centres. [MoUs defining the centre management and coordination for the Miral and Bira TRCs remain to be signed.](#)

**The Borići TRC** (opened in January 2019 following a complete renovation supported by the EU), in the City of Bihać, exclusively hosts families with children, UASC, and other vulnerable groups. IOM staff and security personnel, as well as UNICEF and Save the Children child protection officers (CPOs), are present 24/7. [The currently approved maximum capacity is 430.](#)

[At the end of December, the site hosted 290 migrants and asylum seekers.](#) IOM maintenance staff continuously works on refurbishing the site and making the site more suitable for families to live in. During the month, IOM designated a separate wing on the first floor for UASC only. The area in total has four rooms including 22 beds and a separate toilet.

**The Bira TRC (opened in October 2018)**, in the City of Bihać, predominantly accommodates single men, and on a temporary basis, families with children, and UASC. IOM staff and security personnel, as well as UNICEF and Save the Children CPOs, are present 24/7. While the Bira TRC has an approved accommodation capacity of 1,500, it has 1,595 beds.

At the end of December, the site hosted 2,141 migrants and asylum seekers, predominantly single men. Over the month, family members accommodated in the Bira TRC were regularly relocated to the Borići and Sedra TRCs. The layout and organization of tents and beds in the centre is constantly readapted to respond to the fluctuations of the number and composition of migrants and asylum seekers.

Apart from carrying out repairs and replacements as the facility requires many repairs every month, IOM took measures improve living conditions in the pre-registration and the quarantine. A pre-registration area is part of the Bira TRC building and has three rooms with a total capacity of 52 beds (36 in one room, and eight twin rooms respectively). As such, IOM set up heating in the pre-registration and thus completed works to insulate the area. And on the request of beneficiaries, IOM made internet available in the quarantine. Additionally, the fence which divides the doctors' area with the family area was improved, resulting in better safety for families and prevention of unauthorized entrances in that area. IOM and partners put joint efforts to raise awareness on the protection of UASC. These efforts were needed as on several occasions UASC accommodated in the designated UASC-zone in Bira TRC, often did not spend the night there but slept elsewhere in the areas for single men, raising clear protection concerns.

During the month of December there were two attempts of relocating 36 UASC from TRC Bira to RC Salakovac, but due to lack of willingness of the UASC the actions did not materialize.

Free Wi-Fi access was provided at the TRC by Télécoms Sans Frontières. The malfunctioning of electricity remains an issue.

**The Miral TRC (opened in October 2018)**, in Velika Kladuša, predominantly accommodates single men, and on a temporary basis, UASC. IOM staff and security personnel are present 24/7. The Miral TRC has a maximum capacity of slightly over 600, since the areas which were destroyed during the fire on 1 June are getting renovated and equipped with beds and mattresses. Miral TRC has an open outside kitchen as well as inside kitchen where the centre population are able to cook their own food.

At the end of December, the site hosted migrants and asylum seekers. IOM maintenance staff continuously works to improve the site and cleaning staff regularly deep clean the centre premises. During December, in order to increase safety and to improve living conditions of UASC, IOM finished with the works on the newly designated area for UASC only, inside the building of Miral TRC. The area has a capacity of 70 UASC with separate toilets and showers with warm water. IOM also installed a new ventilation system in the new UASC area and increased the lighting above the entrance to the dining room.

IOM set up a pre-registration area with the capacity of 16 beds, which will be used for vulnerable categories when medical screening is not available.

**The Sedra TRC (opened in July 2018)**, in Cazin Municipality, is exclusively for families with children, UASC, and other vulnerable individuals who are prioritized for voluntary relocation from other sites in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, and other actors as relevant. IOM staff and

security personnel, as well as UNICEF and Save the Children CPOs, are present 24/7. [The site has a maximum capacity of 420 beds](#), of which 160 provide more privacy.

[At the end of December, the site hosted 330 migrants and asylum seekers](#). The site continues to be affected by the poor conditions of the building's structure and the water, electricity and heating infrastructure. The pre-registration area accommodated persons during December.

IOM continuously works on improving living conditions of families and children in Sedra. IOM focused on repairing toilets last month and distributed 10 heaters at beneficiaries' request, and one to the ambulance.

### **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton**

**The Salakovac Refugee Reception Centre (RRC) (in operation since 2000)** [near Mostar, provides accommodation to asylum seekers, refugees, and persons granted subsidiary protection](#). The centre management, services - with basic services, free legal aid, psychosocial support, and primary healthcare - and running costs have been continuously supported through a partnership with UNHCR since 2000. As part of the contingency plan of the BiH authorities the Salakovac RRC opened its doors to asylum seeking families as of May 2018, pursuant to a protocol between the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) and the SA of the MoS. [The Salakovac RRC has a maximum capacity of 213](#).

[At the end of December, 111 asylum seekers were accommodated at this site](#). The MoS assumed responsibility for admitting families (from MHRR) to the Salakovac RRC which now follows strict rules, as with the Delijaš AC. In December, the MHRR manager and UNHCR reactivated the Council of the RRC. The manager convened and chaired bi-weekly meetings of the RRC Council including representatives from each of the accommodation buildings with participation of UNHCR, BHVI and VP.

#### **Protection:**

##### **International protection, documentation, and free legal aid**

In BiH, the asylum process is the responsibility of the SFA and SA of the MoS. A person first needs to express intention to seek asylum with the SFA and then, within two weeks of expressing intention, register an asylum claim (something which can take place upon invitation only) with the SA. The SA are then responsible for evaluating and deciding upon someone's asylum claim. [The MHRR is responsible once a person has been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection](#).

[From 53,263 detected arrivals between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019, 49,804 \(94 percent\) formally expressed intention to seek asylum with the SFA. Of these, 2,356 \(5 percent\) chose and were able to formally lodge an asylum claim with the SA.](#)

[In December, there was a slight increase in the number asylum seeker registrations, \(52 for December, while in November there were 41\)](#). Moreover, many who were registered are still waiting for asylum-seeker cards. Due to the increased number of arrivals, MoS schedules registrations with delay.

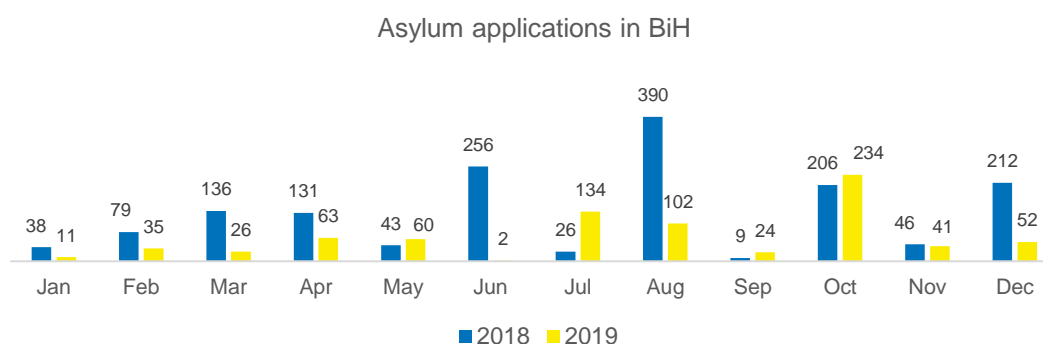
[Several factors continue to hinder fair and efficient access to asylum for those in need of international protection. The latest available information indicates that some 731 asylum seekers are awaiting refugee status determination \(RSD\) interviews or a decision on their claim. UNHCR is aware of a](#)

further 1,000 individuals who wish to register their asylum claim and have been unable to. Among others factors: the SA has limited capacity to register and process asylum claims; the need in some TRCs to register an address with the SFA and have a Certificate of Residence to register an asylum claim; challenges to registering an address at Bira and Miral TRCs, including the need to pay a BAM 10.00 administrative fee (including for those residing at the ŽsU safe house); limited visits by the SA to conduct asylum registrations; short notice for asylum interviews preventing proper preparation and attendance; that while although there is no legal provision that forbids the expression of intent to seek asylum on multiple occasions, the SFA stopped re-issuing attestations on intention to seek asylum leaving to the MoS SA to assess on individual case bases justified reasons for failure to formally apply for asylum within the fourteen days validity of the first issued attestation; a lack of interpretation; restrictions on freedom of movement in USC.

Furthermore, and with specific reference to UASC, challenges remain regarding the appointment of legal guardians – a necessary first step to legal representation, the promotion of a child’s well-being and the safeguarding of the best interests of the child, and to enter the asylum process or other available legal pathways.

This limited access, slowness issuing asylum seeker cards, as well as challenges reporting lost asylum seeker cards in several locations, prevent access to the rights provided by the Law on Asylum. Previously issued asylum seeker cards have also been allowed to expire, despite timely requests for their extension.

UNHCR and its partner VP work to promote access to the asylum procedure through information, free legal aid, and advocacy with relevant institutions and ministries. Legal assistance is provided at sites throughout the country and the VP team works to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are



properly informed of their rights and are represented in the asylum procedure; VP also supports preparation for the interview procedure and compiles CoO information reports.

In December, VP provided information on the asylum procedure and free legal aid services to 1,546 asylum seekers and refugees across BiH, including representation for 599 cases. VP provide these services at formal and informal sites as well as at hostels and other forms of private accommodation.

Together, UNHCR and VP continued to conduct a specifically designed asylum and integration questionnaires in reception centres. The aim is to provide counsel on asylum procedures, identify those with a genuine interest in asylum in BiH, and to assess their integration potential.

## Protection environment and protection services inside TRCs

A number of protection risks and concerns exist for migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in BiH, many of which are exacerbated by either a lack of appropriate accommodation, in particular for UASC and families with children, or by generally inadequate accommodation conditions. A range of actors at the various accommodation sites operate in BiH and work to identify those in need and to directly provide or refer these migrants and asylum seekers to a range of protection related services. Among others, these services include transportation to and from key services, interpretation, free legal aid, protection sensitive accommodation, psychosocial support, child protection, and SGBV related services, referral to medical care, and ad hoc provision of basic needs such as food, water, and NFIs.

The UNHCR protection team conducts weekly visits to monitor the protection environment in all reception centres and to work to identify and address protection issues. The protection team also makes ad-hoc visits to the Immigration Centre. In the USC, UNHCR protection team is comprised of nine Protection Liaisons Assistants (PLAs), who are allocated in TRCs in Bira, Borići, Sedra and Miral, on a full-time basis from Monday to Friday, and on roving visits to all centres during weekends. Apart from monitoring the protection environment of the TRCs, PLAs in the USC provide legal information to their dwellers on asylum in coordination with Vasa Prava and assist in identifying persons in need of international protection who want to seek it in BiH. The UNHCR protection teams, in cooperation with other protection partners, work to identify vulnerable individuals including through systematic profiling, provide information, and make referrals to relevant service providers. UNHCR and their partners also organise focus group discussions (FGD) with residents in order to identify and address protection concerns as well as widen communication channels with asylum seekers and refugees.

Throughout the month, DRC protection monitoring teams and staff conducted protection related activities in TRCs including provision of information, identification of protection needs and gaps, identification of vulnerable individuals, profiling and referrals to authorities and services, as well as psychosocial support, GBV, and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) case management. DRC also undertake a range of community-based protection activities and initiatives, including to strengthen community participation and engagement. Activities were conducted in USC, in the Bira, Borići, Sedra, and Miral TRCs, as well as in Sarajevo at the Ušivak and Blažuj TRC, and in HNC at the Salakovac RRC. These protection monitoring officers also supported DRC's health program component, ensuring protection mainstreaming throughout.

In December, DRC/UNHCR outreach teams profiled 258 vulnerable migrants, asylum seeker, and refugees, including family members, UASC, and vulnerable single adult males newly arriving to reception centres in USC or returning after unsuccessful attempts to cross the border. They were all referred to the authorities and partner agencies for various services (189 referrals were conducted). Further, and supporting the health response in USC, TRC Ušivak in Sarajevo and RRC Salakovac, DRC Protection Monitoring Officers identified and referred 1220 persons in need (47 children, 93 women, 1080 men) to various services in TRCs like medical assistance, accommodation, registration.

IOM staff present in the Ušivak, Sedra, Bira, Miral, and Borići TRCs, as well as in the Salakovac RRC, with the support of and in collaboration with several UN and NGO actors, ensures information on protection and assistance service providers is available in centres. IOM staff present at the TRCs refers migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees with identified protection needs to the SFA, UNHCR and partners, NGOs, and other service and information providers.

Additionally, IOM has on-call mobile teams available 24/7 for assistance and transportation of migrants and asylum seekers between TRCs, to medical facilities, at the request of the SFA or to other service providers. In December, in addition to 369 transportations to medical facilities and 48 at the request of SFA, IOM carried out 206 transports for all other services and 84 for education.

BHWI social workers, psychologists, and interpreters/cultural mediators, supported by UNHCR, are present in the Ušivak TRC, the Salakovac RRC, the UNHCR Information Centre (Monday - Friday), the Delijaš AC (four times per week), the Immigration Centre in Lukavica (at least once per week), and at the Duje Reception Centre (upon need), and TRC Blažuj (focusing on UASC) and provide a range of services with a focus on psychosocial support, SGBV prevention and response, and the identification of vulnerable categories, guardianship for UASC in TRC Ušivak, along with referrals to relevant services. BHWI also provide services in the Sarajevo urban area in locations such as House of All (twice per week). Among other activities BHWI organize SGBV prevention meetings/workshops with women and with UASC, undertake individual counselling for the identification of victims of SGBV, provide individual and group psychosocial support, psychological first aid, organized music therapy, make referrals for psychiatric examinations, organize sports, fitness, and recreational activities.

Žene sa Une (ŽsU) operate a trauma recovery programme for women in the Sedra TRC as well as in their safe house. The programme works to promote psychological recovery and social integration. Two groups of women participate in workshops which work to reduce the symptoms of depression and anxiety and support recovery from trauma. Moreover, they work to identify problems or issues experienced by the women in a participatory manner and act as an entry and referral point to other specific programs and individual work organized by other actors.

### **Protection environment outside TRCs and protection outreach**

Due to limited accommodation capacity, increased arrivals and, in cases, objective reasons for individuals and families to choose not to stay in the available accommodation capacity, an increasing number of migrants and asylum seekers are present outside of the established TRCs, the AC, and the RRC. Migrants and asylum seekers are also in transit between locations in BiH and exposed to a range of protection risks.

Measures put in place by Cantonal authorities in USC to limit the freedom of movement of asylum seekers and migrants both to and within USC continued in December. Related police checks of buses and trains continued. Further, the Cantonal authorities continue the practice whereby no newly arriving migrants, asylum seekers, or refugees can enter USC, regardless of vulnerabilities, without prior confirmation of available accommodation space.

Such restrictions placed on freedom of movement can, *inter alia*, inhibit access to rights such as access to the asylum procedure, healthcare, and cause and prolong family separation. These measures also expose migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to protection risks, in particular for those disembarked from transport at the Cantonal border and in locations without services, and place additional burden on humanitarian workers and limited outreach capacity.

As during previous months, while vulnerable categories were admitted (as above, assuming available space), newly arriving single men continued to be denied access to the TRCs in USC. In addition to the risks related to a lack of safe and secure shelter, due to the absence of an individual approach to

assessing and determining access to shelter (assessment based simply on gender and family status), it is likely that extremely vulnerable individuals were among the single men denied accommodation.

Given the increased presence of migrants and asylum seekers outside of accommodation centres, UNHCR, DRC, UNICEF, in close cooperation with IOM, deploy outreach and protection monitoring teams in USC, and work to monitor the protection environment, provide protection by presence, to identify vulnerable individuals (families, single women, UASC, persons with disabilities or serious health issues), to provide key information, and to directly provide or refer these migrants and asylum seekers to a range of protection related services.

Individual cases identified, depending on the case specific circumstances and vulnerability, are referred to the DRC Protection Team in the TRCs or, when needed, to Medical Teams, supported by IOM/EUD and ECHO. During the reporting period, the UNHCR/DRC and UNICEF/StC Outreach Protection Team observed 1,033 arrivals to Bosanska Otoka (805 single men, 2 single women, 99 adults in families, 72 children in families and 63 UASC). During December, 135 vulnerable persons were identified, provided with information and referred to accommodation.

Further, UNHCR, in partnership with DRC and VP, continues to monitor and register incident allegations of persons attempting onward movement from BiH to Croatia. To-date in 2019, partners registered 677 reports relating to 6,437 people. Of these reports, 96 percent contain alleged protection incidents that happened during pushbacks on the territory of Croatia and of which 79 percent relate to theft, extortion or destruction of property and 48 percent relate to denial of access to asylum.

In order to improve humanitarian coordination and more effectively cope with growing needs of PoCs in situations without access to established accommodation facilities, UNHCR and DRC stepped up their engagement in ensuring a strengthened and inclusive coordination system is developed and functional at all levels through the creation of the Outreach Coordination Working Group (OCWG), enabling partners to jointly identify and fill in gaps in basic assistance, information sharing and community engagement.

UNHCR maintains an information centre in Sarajevo which makes referrals to relevant and available services, as well as offers psychosocial support, through its partner BHWI, and free legal aid, through its partner VP. Translation and childcare support are provided. Through its partners BHWI and VP, UNHCR provides outreach legal information and initial psychosocial services and referrals to other service providers for asylum seekers and refugees in Tuzla area, and conducting outreach visits to Kalesija, Sapna, Bijeljina, Zvornik, Brcko and Dobo.

### **Child Protection**

UASC are observed staying outside of reception facilities in USC, due to limited capacities in appropriate reception facilities, lack of family- and community-based alternative care options, as well as an unwillingness to be accommodated due to immediate onward movement intentions. This is of serious concern as it renders UASC at heightened risk of protection incidents and often without access to basic humanitarian assistance.

Matters are further complicated because UASC are not easily identified in public spaces. For example, when UASC arrive by train/bus in USC, they are often not identified as minors and are



referred back to Republika Srpska, although they should be identified and able to be referred to accommodation within USC.

In addition, there is often a challenge to provide timely accommodation in the Bira TRC as its pre-registration capacities are limited. Compounding this, following disembarkation from trains from Sarajevo to Bihać, during the night when doctors are not present, and if there is no quarantine space in the Bira TRC, families and UASC are left between two entities on the street in the middle of the night, exposing them to protection risks. Cold temperature and poor conditions of the pre-registration induce UASC to leave the preregistration area prior to registration and search for alternative options for accommodation which exposes them to severe risks.

Further complicating matters, as TRCs in USC primarily accept families and UASC, there is an increasing trend of single men who claim to be UASC or part of bogus family compositions comprised of a single man and UASC, to get preferential access to services. Vast majority of registrations of the male families are done in SFA Tuzla, where improper identification, profiling and referral of UACS has been observed. Often the single adult of one of these “pretending family” compositions leaves the child behind, leaving the child unaccompanied. Children who are left behind are exposed to many risks of trafficking, manipulation and exploitation. UNICEF is closely working with Ministry of Health and Social Policy and CSWs to promote foster care and, in cooperation with UNHCR, to establish a BID panel for the most vulnerable. UNICEF is advocating with authorities and other agencies for foster care for the youngest, support for independent living for older ones, and shelter for the most vulnerable UASC.

UNICEF continues to strengthen outreach activities and child protection teams at points of entry to USC with four social workers (three for the Bihać CSW and one for the Ključ CSW) enhancing the protection and guardianship appointments for identified UASC. Basic NFIs and food items – such as baby food, procured by UNICEF exclusively for outreach activities, are distributed by outreach teams to the most vulnerable, especially children and pregnant women.

UNICEF deployed three outreach workers who operate in different locations in USC including: Ključ, Velečevo, Velika Kladuša, Canton 10, Bosanska Otoka, etc., and, in partnership with Save the Children, supports another outreach team which operates in Bihać, Velika Kladuša, Bosanska Otoka, and the Bira TRC. Their task is to identify UASC and refer them to existing services including accommodation, MHPSS, free legal aid, and medical support. In December, these outreach workers identified 128 UASC and 99 families (out of which 20 male families), and among them 66 UASC and 75 families were referred to accommodation. As pre-registration areas in the Bira and Sedra TRCs have started operating and capacities have increased since mid-August, it has been easier to refer identified UASC and families with children to accommodation.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support the CSWs in Bihać, Cazin, and VK, and a multi-disciplinary team from the CSW in Bihać operating after working hours and during weekends, with a focus on the protection of migrant and asylum seeker children, with a special emphasis on UASC. This additional social service workforce provides legal guardianship to identified UASC, conducts BIA, and provides escort to transfer UASC to the designated zone in the Bira TRC or other accommodation (e.g. safe house). In December, through UNICEF support, the CSWs in Bihać, Cazin, and Ključ assigned legal guardianship in total to 94 newly arriving UASC. Additionally, in response to the needs, in TRC Bira and after consultation with the Centre of Social Welfare of Bihać, CWS started

guardianship duties for UASC; by the end of 2019 CWS Europe had assigned 146 legal guardianships. UNICEF underlined the serious need to increase the number of legal guardians, because even though they delegate a large portion of their responsibilities to child protection officers, they are overstretched conducting their legal obligations.

Social workers from the CSWs are reluctant to appoint a legal guardian to UASC who are not registered and to whom a social worker cannot guarantee accommodation. Legal Guardians that are seconded to the CSW Bihac were regularly visiting Vučjak, while it was open, in order to relocate UASC to TRC Bira and provide them with adequate support and protection. Due to pressures from authorities, UASC and families resort to hiding in abandoned houses or nearby woodlands and are less visible.

UNICEF, in partnership with Save the Children, continued to provide 24/7 on-site child protection support at the Sedra, Bira, and Borići TRCs for migrant and asylum seeker children and their families. 16 Child Protection Officers (CPO) provided general advice and assistance, referral to relevant institutions/organizations, psychological first aid, individual and group counselling, follow-up support for children identified at risk of protection issues or victims of violence and engagement with parents to enhance their parental skills. In December, a total of 248 children were reached: 125 in the Borići TRC (60 boys, 65 girls), 75 in the Sedra TRC (52 boys, 23 girls), and 48 in the Bira TRC (all boys).

In the Bira TRC, UNICEF and Save the Children support a team of 16 CPOs for UASC and two CPOs for families provide 24/7 on-site support in close cooperation with the Bihać CSW. The CPOs provide information, psycho-social support, psychological first aid, case-management, general assistance and referral to relevant institutions/organizations, medical escort and follow-up on medical cases, individual and group counselling, English and Bosnian classes, literacy classes, art therapy and creative workshops, educational workshops (hygiene, sexual reproductive health), sport activities and board games, and life skills education, in-line with the “Boys on the Move” methodology introduced by UNFPA. In December, support was provided to 507 UASC (all boys) in the Bira TRC, out of which 209 were new beneficiaries. Total number of supported UASC from the beginning of the year is 2,150 UASC.

During the reporting period, in the Bira TRC, two social workers, seconded to the Bihać CSW, with the support of UNICEF, and in partnership with Save the Children, are present on daily basis and perform the role of legal guardians to UASC and providing child protection support. Since the end of April, 879 children in the Bira TRC were appointed legal guardians (16 new legal guardianships in December). The social workers also provided outreach support and accompanied children from different locations in USC where they are identified to the Bira TRC, including UASC.

In the Miral TRC, two social workers, seconded to the VK CSW, with the support of UNICEF and Save the Children, are present daily and perform the role of legal guardians for UASC and provide child protection support. Since mid-February, 84 children in the Miral TRC were appointed legal guardians (11 new legal guardianships in December). The social workers also accompany children from different locations in USC where they are identified to the Bira TRC, including UASC identified in front of the Miral TRC.

The construction for a designated zone for UASC, in TRC Miral, was completed on 6 December, and UASC have been accommodated there since 9 December. The maximum capacity of the zone is 60

(up to 100 in case of extreme emergency). UNICEF and SCI engaged a team of 12 CPOs to provide 24/7 support to UASC. In total, 37 UASC (all boys) were supported in December.

[UNICEF and SOS Children's Villages continued to provide 24/7 on-site child protection support at the Ušivak TRC.](#) The child protection team provides on-site support (case management, psychosocial support, education, and recreational activities) for migrant and asylum seeker children with a focus on UASC and makes referrals to external support services (legal representation and assistance, medical services) when required and monitors the provision of services to UASC in close partnership with the Hadžići CSW. [In December, support was provided to a total of 112 UASC, including psychosocial support to 30 UASC and other child protection support to 82 UASC. The continuous fluctuation of UASC influences the number of participants, since many UASC stay for one or two nights only.](#) As of January UNICEF will continue to provide related support in partnership with World Vision.

[UNICEF supports the CSW Hadžići with a lawyer for facilitating the procedure of appointing the legal guardianships for UASC.](#) Since mid-December with the deployment of a lawyer, the procedure of appointing legal guardianships has been shortened from several days to one day; it reduces the risk led by the absence of legal guardians for UASC. [In December, 12 children were appointed legal guardianships through a joint effort with UNHCR/BHWI which provide the special guardianship in cooperation with CSW Hadžići.](#)

[BHWI have made social workers available to the Hadžići CSW in Sarajevo Canton to be appointed as legal guardians, conduct BIA, and provide psychosocial support.](#) Only a minority of UASC at the Ušivak TRC are appointed legal guardianships, largely due to their short stays at the TRC. Some inefficiencies in the procedures of appointment also contribute.

[UNICEF and World Vision continued to provide protection support at the Salakovac RRC.](#) A World Vision CPO provided psychosocial, educational, and recreation support

[Supported by UNICEF, and operated by ŽsU, SOS Children's Villages, and World Vision, Child Friendly Spaces \(CFS\) operate at the Salakovac RRC, the Ušivak TRC, the Borići TRC, the Bira TRC, and the Sedra TRC \(where there are two spaces, one for children under twelve and one Youth Centre for children 12 – 17\).](#) In December, a total of 493 (165 girls, 328 boys) children benefitted from CFS services across all sites: 90 at the Salakovac RRC (43 girls, 47 boys), 72 at the Ušivak TRC (27 girls, 45 boys), 119 at the Borići TRC (41 girls, 78 boys), 41 at the Bira TRC (all boys), 84 at the Sedra TRC CFS (35 girls and 49 boys), and 87 children at the Youth Centre (19 girls, 68 boys). CFS operate as multi-functional centres to prevent and respond to protection concerns and connect children and their families with a variety of humanitarian services. They provide children with opportunities to develop, play, learn, and strengthen their resilience, as well as access psychosocial support. CFS also offer a space for the identification, referral, and follow-up, and/or direct support of at-risk children. In December, CFS provided a total of 586 services (448 educational/recreational, 98 psychosocial/HEART): 112 activities at the Ušivak TRC (105 educational/recreational, 7 psychosocial); 51 activities at the Salakovac RRC (42 educational/recreational, 9 psychological/HEART); 51 at the Bira TRC (44 educational/recreational and 7 HEART); 120 at the Borići TRC (105 educational/recreational, 15 HEART); and 252 at the Sedra TRC (192 educational/recreational, 60 HEART).

## **Extremely vulnerable individuals and GBV prevention and response**

The GBV Working Group, led by UNFPA, continued the discussion on the next steps needed to develop a joint database for GBV cases, where members would be able to submit monthly reports to the Ministry of Health and Social Policy. UNFPA also continued to identify capacity building needs in the form of improved communication between agencies during the referral and management of GBV cases.

Médecins du Monde (MdM) in cooperation with UNFPA, continued to support GBV survivors and women and girls at high risk through targeted group and individual psychosocial support counselling provided by two psychologists operating in the Bira, Sedra, and Borići TRCs three times per week – UNFPA psychologist were available for crisis interventions. As from this reporting period, UNFPA/MdM started implementing empowerment and rehabilitation programs in TRC Ušivak. In December, a total number of 40 women received psychosocial support, including 2 GBV cases with follow-up and referral to other services in cases of need. In addition, the UNFPA psychologists were available for crises interventions.

In USC, UNFPA, through MdM, continued to manage three Centres for Women and Girls (WGC) in the Bira, Borići, and Sedra TRCs, assisting vulnerable women and girls and GBV survivors to rehabilitate and strengthen resilience through empowerment programs and life-skills education. In December, a total number of 57 women were supported through empowerment programmes and life-skills education, recording 231 participations of women were recorded in the WGCs. Noting that a significant number of the women and girls who access services in the WGCs are illiterate, a literacy program commenced in July. UNFPA ensures that WGCs are closely linked to reproductive health services – UNFPA/MDM ensure gynaecological examinations are conducted by a female gynaecologist with the support of three women empowerment officers who speak Arabic, Farsi and Turkish.

DRC in partnership with UNHCR and with the support of Vasa Prava, IOM and UNFPA organized two days events in TRCs Borići and Sedra to mark the global campaign “16 Days of Activism” against gender-based violence. Additionally, UNHCR’s partner BHWI organised three similar events in Ušivak TRC, Salakovac RRC and Delijaš AC. Participants were provided specific information on rights and responsibilities within international and local legal framework, as well as on the available support and services in the centres.

BHWI continued to work on SGBV prevention, identification, and response in the Delijaš AC, the Immigration Centre, the Ušivak TRC, House of All, and the Salakovac RRC, including through individual counselling, family counselling, and counselling focused on self-protection in camp and migration contexts. BHWI also provide workshops and training sessions.

A limited number of spaces in specialized accommodation facilities are available for people identified as extremely vulnerable, including UASC and victims of SGBV, through the IFS-EMMAUS Centre for Children and Youth at Duje and with ŽsU. In December, Protection teams continued to identify and refer particularly vulnerable individuals to ŽsU for safe accommodation, where they also receive counselling and psychosocial support, in collaboration with DRC who continued to provide GBV case management as well as mental health and psychosocial support case management.

## **Health:**

### **Primary and Secondary Healthcare**

DRC continues to provide healthcare for migrants and asylum seekers who are registered in six centres: in USC, the Bira, Borići, Miral, and Sedra TRCs; in Sarajevo Canton, in the Ušivak TRC; in HNC, in the Salakovac RRC. In each of these centres, primary healthcare is provided on-site through the engagement of medical teams from local primary healthcare centres (PHCs) (the Bihać, Bosanska Krupa, Cazin, Hadžići, and VK PHCs) through the support of IOM/EUD and ECHO. Specialized services on the primary level (including laboratory analyses, gynaecological, paediatric and other services) have also been covered through the Bihać, Cazin, and VK PHCs in USC, at the Hadžići PHC in Sarajevo Canton, and at the Stari Grad Mostar PHC in HNC. For those accommodated in the Delijaš AC, primary healthcare continued to be provided with the support of UNHCR by the Trnovo PHC. Due to increased number of emergency health care cases in Sarajevo Canton, Emergency Care Department has been contracted for assistance. DRC follows up the needs for response in Tuzla Canton, therefore engaging with the PHC Tuzla is in the assessment phase.

Secondary healthcare services are provided through Cantonal Hospital Dr. Irfan Ljubijankic in USC and through the General Hospital in Sarajevo Canton. In HNC, the secondary health care services are ensured through Cantonal Hospital Dr. Safet Mujic, Mostar and University Clinical Hospital Mostar. Specific cases are referred to the University Clinical Centre Sarajevo. DRC is in the process of formalising the cooperation with University Clinic in Tuzla to assist migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in need of secondary health care (thanks to ECHO-funding).

During the reporting period, 6,288 medical examinations and 1,581 direct medical interventions were carried out by the medical teams engaged through the respective PHCs in the six centres. JRS and DRC assisted patients through accompaniments towards various health care institutions, providing accompaniment and translation services for the beneficiaries referred to specialized services and secondary health care services.

DRC continued with provision of medication for migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in need through medical teams engaged in the field. According to the established system, medications were provided according to the requisition designed by the medical teams. Disposable medical supplies, necessary for provision of health services, are provided by DRC in accordance with requisition designed by the medical teams, and in accordance with funds available.

Five Red Cross Mobile Teams in partnership with DRC, supported through ECHO, continued implementing outreach activities, primarily in enhancing provision of First Aid and strengthening referral process towards the public health institutions. During the month of December, the teams have been active in Tuzla Canton, USC, HNC and Republika Srpska providing 1,277 First Aid Consultations and 1,915 PSS First Aid Consultations.

DRC has frequent consultations with the Primary Health Institutes (PHI) in Sarajevo Canton and USC for counterchecking and updating the protocols for proper maintenance of premises of temporary infirmaries, as well as for the treatment of scabies and pediculosis in TRCs.

DRC Team in partnership with Red Cross and in coordination with IOM organized entry screening for the 372 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were transferred from Vučjak to Blažuj

immediately after the opening of the reception Centre. DRC organized provision of health services with the support of Red Cross and MsF, until the activation of Primary Health Centre medical team.

In cooperation with the CCCM and following the recommendations of resource ministries, DRC upgraded medical units in TRCs in view of medical equipment and devices, as well as enlarged areas for direct medical interventions to beneficiaries (currently in Sedra and Bira, in preparation in Borići and Miral).

### **Mental Healthcare Services**

In partnership with DRC, mental health services were provided in the Bira, Borići, and Miral TRCs, through the regular presence of psychologists engaged through Mental Health Centres within the engaged PHCs. Services are not available for the hospitalization of more serious cases and rehabilitation therapy and treatment for the addicts is not available.

MDM, in partnership with DRC and supported by ECHO, launched the activities for **MHPSS for the adult male population in the centres in USC**. The activities aim to improve the mental health condition of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers through PSS and early detection with empowerment and psychoeducational group activities, individual or group mental health support, referrals to specialised institutions/organisations and capacity strengthening. In December, 386 persons were assisted, and 86 mental health consultations were conducted.

Three training-workshops, organised by DRC in cooperation with UNHCR and SDC, for provision of culturally sensitive services and prevention of stress, burn out and secondary traumatization, took place in Sarajevo and Mostar, for the medical staff working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

### **Paediatric Healthcare**

In December, UNICEF in partnership with DRC, supported three paediatric teams (two outreach to the Borići and Bira TRCs and one based within the Sedra TRC). The outreach teams provided a total of 60 services to 53 children (aged 0-17 years). The paediatric team in the Sedra TRC, provided 155 services to 74 children (45 boys and 29 girls) aged 1-17 years. **The paediatric team provided healthcare services to patients with diverse symptoms as respiratory problems, the flu/common cold, wounds and fractures, bowel and intestine infections and dermatological conditions.**

**The paediatric team from the Bihać PHC and the Cazin PHC conducted school entrance medical examinations - beneficiaries, from Bihać, the Borići TRC and the Bira TRC, were referred for laboratory and microbiological analysis by the UNICEF/DRC teams.** In total, 16 beneficiaries were issued a medical certificate for school enrolment.

DRC, in cooperation with PHC Bihac and PHC Cazin, initiated referrals of beneficiaries accommodated in TRC Borići, towards PHCs for immunisation. Based on the recommendations of the respective paediatric departments, the target group are children 0-17 years. In December, 173 children were vaccinated, out of which 65 UASC, and parents received on-site immunisation counselling

During the reporting period, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, Public Health Institute of Canton Sarajevo and Public Institution Primary Health Centre Canton Sarajevo worked towards the immunization of asylum seeker, refugee and migrant children in Sarajevo Canton. **By the end of**

December, the Action Plan for implementing immunization process was ready and the immunization cards were prepared. The start of immunization process was agreed for the 22 January 2020 for the children identified in TRC Ušivak, TRC Blažuj and House of All. The implementation of immunization process will be financially supported by ECHO

### **Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare**

UNFPA ensures that WGCs are closely linked to reproductive health services. UNFPA\MdM ensure gynaecological examinations are conducted by a female gynaecologist with the support of three women empowerment officers who speak Arabic, Farsi and Turkish. In December, 18 women have participated and were supported through an organized SRH workshop in TRC Sedra.

In all centres, Protection Monitoring Officers supported DRC medical teams with regular follow-up on chronic medical cases of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. The Protection Monitoring officer in the Borići and Sedra TRCs support with the distribution of sanitary pads and condoms.

### **NFI:**

IOM continues to provide NFIs for newly arriving asylum seekers and migrants in all five TRCs. An NFI distribution system is in place and operational with set schedules displaying distribution times. IOM provides NFIs welcome kits, after which individual NFIs refills are provided. The Red Cross, receiving many donations from the public, regularly complements and contributes to IOM's NFIs distribution.

In December, IOM distributed a total of NFIs in the five TRCs (4,352 NFIs to 1,385 people in the Borići TRC, 9,343 to 2,166 people in the Bira TRC, 10,729 to 630 people in the Miral TRC, 3,498 to 438 people in the Sedra TRC, and 2,693 to 978 in the Ušivak TRC). The centre population in the Bira and Sedra TRCs, where IOM has a small NFI warehouses and storage halls, contributes to the organization and unpacking of delivered NFIs. The distribution of specialized NFIs packages to hospitalized migrants and asylum seekers from the Sedra TRC, which contains pyjamas, slippers, a towel and other NFIs necessary for hospital stays, continued during the month of December. IOM provides clean sheets and linen upon arrival and for those in scabies treatment, or other medical cases as per need. IOM provides exceptional additional NFIs in the Salakovac RCC, especially during transportation from the Ušivak TRC or from SFA offices.

Besides the regular NFIs distribution in December, IOM also distributed winter clothes and blankets

In the newly opened Blažuj TRC, IOM made sure to distribute adequate packages to all. Additionally, among other things, IOM delivered 500 mattresses, 200 oil radiators, five convection heaters, bedlinen, pillows and blankets - 1000 each, and fuel for generator.

In December, a total of 227 NFI packages (primarily hygiene products) were provided to women by UNICEF: 202 at the MBCs in Sedra, Borići and Bira, and 15 at the Salakovac RRC; 10 NFI packages for mothers and pregnant women (in Sedra, Borići and Bira). Additionally, UNFPA continued to distribute hygienic pads and modern contraceptives for women and girls as needed, through the WGCs.

The level of satisfaction of the TRCs' populations with NFIs was generally high among the respondents to IOM's beneficiary satisfaction survey in October, with the majority of respondents stating that they have everything they need and that they are satisfied with the timing of refills (56%).

The two major items that respondents complained not having enough of were clothes/shoes (across the five TRCs) and a good Wi-Fi connection (especially in the Bira and Miral TRCs).

### **WASH:**

[The Borići TRC has 23 toilets and 16 showers inside the building and 21 toilets and 13 showers outside the building](#) (in sanitary containers) and facilities are separated per gender. Hot water and drinking water are available in the centre. Six washing machines and six dryers are installed, and operational and centre residents are involved in the laundry operations on a voluntary basis. During the reporting month, IOM provided laundry services to an average of 270 people weekly, washing over 140 bags of laundry each week.

[The Bira TRC has 132 toilets and 58 showers. Facilities are separated by gender and drinking water is available in the centre.](#) Several repairs take place every week in the centre to repair broken facilities. Although the Bira TRC continues to struggle with broken facilities and equipment, which usually results in an average of 25 toilets being out of order and a considerable number of showers lacking hot water, the awareness raising campaigns promoted by IOM in coordination with the JRS cultural mediation team on how to take better care of common WASH facilities have proved to be successful.

IOM provides laundry services to centres population with more than 500 bags of laundry washed last month. Caritas is also involved in the provision of laundry services in TRC Bira.

[The Miral TRC has 55 toilets and 34 showers.](#) Facilities are not gender separated since the centre only hosts single males and a few UASC boys. Drinking water is available in the centre. An operational laundry system is in place, allowing the centre population to wash their personal belongings. [In December, an average of 150 laundry bags were washed and dried weekly for centres beneficiaries,](#) in addition to the bed-linen and other centre inventory washed by the centre staff.

[The Sedra TRC has 66 toilets and 76 showers, with 43 rooms with private facilities for a total of 163 people.](#) The remaining TRC population has access to shared toilets and showers, separated by gender. Drinking water is available in the centre. [The laundry system is in place and operational with six washing machines and six dryers washing an average of 270 laundry bags for an average of 190 residents weekly.](#) The TRC population contributes to the laundry operations on a voluntary basis. Minor challenges with the availability of hot water and WASH facilities persist.

[The Ušivak TRC has 33 toilets and 28 showers and facilities are separated by gender.](#) Hot water and drinking water are available at the centre. The centre population is actively involved in cleaning and maintenance of the centre, during food distribution, and in the organization of the centre's communal activities and spaces. [The laundry system is in place and operational with six washing machines and six dryers washing an average of 280 laundry bags for an average of 190 residents weekly.](#) The TRC population contributes to the laundry operations on a voluntary basis. Minor challenges with the availability of hot water and WASH facilities persist.

The Blažuj TRC has 20 toilets and 48 showers. Hot water and drinking water are available at the centre. IOM is working on setting up the laundry system. During the month, IOM took measures to make sure WASH services are up to the same standard provided in other TRCs. For example, 60 garbage bins and 30 garbage containers were set up in the TRC. With the help of THW, IOM connected the TRC to the city water supply, providing drinking water to the TRCs population.



IOM continues to support disinfection, deratization and disinsection measures in all TRCs in USC. Disinfections are organized weekly, while disinsections take place monthly, and deratization take place every three months.

WASH facilities at House of All are separated by room, with 21 toilets and 21 showers for approximately 70 residents.

### **Food:**

Asylum seekers accommodated in the Delijaš AC are provided with a monthly food package by the MoS in accordance with recommendations made by a nutritionist at the Sarajevo Federal Institute for Public Health. Further to this food package, additional food and supplements are provided for pregnant women, chronically ill individuals, and children up to the age of 10. A fresh food allowance to the amount of BAM 30 per month is also given to every asylum seeker at the Centre. BHWI provide additional support with nutritional needs in specific cases as per recommendations made by a doctor.

The Red Cross Mostar Branch, supported by IOM, prepares and distributes three meals per day to asylum seekers and migrants at the Salakovac RRC. In December, 14,013 meals were provided. BHWI provides additional support with nutritional needs in specific cases as per recommendations made by a doctor. Caritas supported with food babies in coordination with the management of the centre.

In the four TRCs in USC managed by IOM, IOM/the Red Cross (the Bihać and USC branches) continued to support the provision of three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and two fruit snacks per day. Meals are prepared and distributed in-line with international standards that guarantee sufficient nutritional calorie intake. In the Sedra and Miral TRCs, meals are prepared on-site, whereas for the Bira and Borići TRCs, the Red Cross prepares meals at their own premises and transports them to the site.

In December, IOM/the Red Cross provided a total of 213,078 meals in USC (23,097 meals in the Borići TRC, 125,021 meals in the Bira TRC, 22,237 meals in the Sedra TRC, and 35,848 meals in the Miral TRC).

In all TRCs, IOM provides specialized food (gluten-free, vegetarian) to those with specific dietary requirement upon a doctor's recommendation/medical prescription or to those who are vegetarians. For example, through December, IOM and the Red Cross provided special food to four people with diabetes accommodated in Sedra and Miral TRC, vegetarian food to 11 people accommodated in the Bira TRC and nine in Miral TRC. Food without beef to people of Indian nationality accommodated in the Miral TRC, following their request and special meals to 187 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Blažuj. School children receive an early breakfast on school-days and additional milk is distributed daily to parents or care-takers of children. Additionally, IOM/Red Cross provide food for the families who wait for transportation to Bihać in front of Miral TRC.

Open kitchens equipped by IOM for the centre populations to cook their own food are operational in all TRCs in USC. The centre population is actively involved in keeping these spaces clean. In the Bira TRC, one voluntary focal point has been appointed for this purpose.

In the Ušivak and Blažuj TRC, three meals per day plus two fruit snacks are prepared and distributed with the support of Pomozi.ba and the EU. Meals are prepared and distributed in-line with international standards that guarantee nutritional value, variety and a daily calorie intake. In December, 68,917

meals were distributed in Ušivak and 20,923 in Blažuj TRC. Pomozi.ba does not have the capacity to provide for specialized food for medical cases, or for extra nutritional food for pregnant and lactating women.

Migrants and asylum seekers accommodated by House of All are provided with food such that they can prepare three meals for themselves per day.

Asylum seekers accommodated in the ŽsU protective shelter are provided with groceries such that they can prepare meals for themselves in-line with their own practices and schedules.

During the reporting month, IOM took additional measures to enhance and carefully monitor the complementary baby food to make sure that food is being prepared according to UNICEF guidelines on complementary food for infants and children 6-24 months. In December, IOM engaged a Food Coordinator who will be doing regular inspections to make sure standards and guidelines are met.

UNICEF, in partnership with ŽsU, SOS Children's Villages, and World Vision, operated Mother Baby Corners (MBC) at the Salakovac RRC, and the Ušivak, Borići, Bira, and Sedra TRCs. MBCs provide parents with IYCF counselling, information/awareness raising on breastfeeding and hygiene, psychosocial counselling, and support the provision of infant food and hygiene products. In December, a total of 68 mothers and 113 children (34 girls and 49 boys) under five benefitted from MBC services: 14 mothers and 22 children (10 girls and 12 boys) at the Salakovac RRC; 15 mothers and 20 children (6 girls and 14 boys) at the Ušivak TRC; 22 mothers and 24 children (10 girls, 14 boys) at the Borići TRC; 17 mothers and 17 children (8 girls, 9 boys) at the Sedra TRC.

UNICEF and DRC prepared IYCF materials and printed them in English, Arabic, and Persian. The materials were disseminated to target migrants and asylum seekers in TRCs in USC within MBC and medical/paediatric units following parents/caregiver counselling. [UNICEF and DRC continue to follow up with IYCF activities and strengthen the capacities of relevant staff.](#)

Outreach Protection Teams supported by ECHO and UNHCR, during the month of December, provided energy saving food supplies and emergency non-food items for the most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants (including families, UASC and single adult males) identified in the pushback areas or disembarkation points in USC (Ključ and Bosanska Otoka). In total, 1,393 people were assisted with food items NFIs distributed. Provision of emergency food and non-food items was supported through ECHO funding.

### **Education and leisure:**

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in USC and with Save the Children, enrolled 84 children in five primary schools in Bihać and Cazin municipalities. Since the beginning of the year, total of 402 children attended the primary and summer schools. In two schools (Ostrožac – unit Prošići and Prekounje), in USC, the preparatory classrooms have started. Children will start in those preparatory classrooms prior to their placement into regular classrooms. [Furthermore, UASC between 6 and 15 years were also enrolled into primary schools in Bihać. Currently 12 UASC \(six new UASC in December\) are attending schools. All children that were enrolled in the previous school year are to continue this school year within the same schools.](#)

In the beginning of December, UNICEF held a Social Justice training, reaching 50 teachers from primary schools in USC, as well as relevant staff members of Save the Children.

UNICEF jointly with Save the Children team of cultural mediators in education, held informative meetings with the UASC from the Bira TRC, regarding the procedure of their enrolment into primary education in USC. The teams continued to support the children at schools by accompanying them to and from the school, assisting them in their individual school work as well as assist teachers in school for more effective and efficient teaching processes.

Further, children attending the CFS in the Bira, Borići, and Sedra TRCs, as well as in protective shelter, participated in educational and creative workshops over the month, provided by ŽsU in partnership with UNICEF.

[Asylum seeker children in the Salakovac RRC are still excluded from formal and structured non-formal education, pending approval of the Cantonal Government.](#) VP previously submitted appeals to the Ombudsperson and in May received reply that appeals have been submitted to the MoS and the Ministry of Education (MoE) of HNC for further observations. In lieu of approval from the HNC MoE for asylum seeker children to attend school, "My School", a custom education program (attended by 38 children) run by BHWI continued in December in the Salakovac RRC.

[In the Salakovac RRC, BHWI, supported by UNHCR, provide a range of activities,](#) including knitting workshops, women's aerobics, and sports and recreational activities. Childcare services are provided during the activities as needed.

[In the Delijaš AC, BHWI, supported by UNHCR, provide activities for children and adults,](#) including, educational activities for children with a focus on preparing for school enrolment in the BiH education system, sports and recreational activities and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian lessons.

[In the Ušivak TRC, recreational activities provided by BHWI were affected by the high turnover of people in the TRC.](#) Despite this, several activities were organized in smaller groups or on an individual level. These included occupational therapy sessions such as drawing, decoupage, board games, and manicure workshops. In December, IOM organized a tennis, volleyball and chess tournament in Ušivak TRC, in addition to IT workshops organized by the World Vision. Children attending non-formal education activities were visited by the Minister of Education Canton Sarajevo who supported their inclusion in the educational system.

[In the Bira TRC, during the month of December, Church World Service \(CWS\)](#) provided educational and recreational activities. The aim of the activities was to strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries for easier integration into the local community, to contribute to their resilience, and to increase their knowledge on the challenges ahead. During December, CWS, equipped a container for UASC, located in the zone for minors in Bira TRC where the team organized 87 creative, recreational and sport activities with minors. In addition, IPSIA serves hot tea, 700 to 900 teacups daily, as per usual, and organises recreational and educational activities.

[The Integration Centre Units \(ICU\) ran by ŽsU, continue to offer a range of intercultural activities in the Sedra TRC and Bira TRCs.](#) The spaces are equipped with computers, board games, playing cards, handicrafts, internet, library, etc. [In the Bira TRC in December, 297 men participated in ICU activities. At the Sedra TRC, 154 people \(74 women and 80 men\) participated in ICU activities, in TRC Borići 60 \(26 women and 34 men\) and 179 men in TRC Miral.](#) IOM staff continued to organize English classes twice a week in the Miral TRC.

Partners in Borići TRC started providing Bosnian language classes for adults. On 28 December, DRC with the support of UNHCR and in close cooperation with IOM and Žene sa Une, launched sewing community activities within the Integration Corner.

**Durable solutions, support to host communities, and social cohesion:**

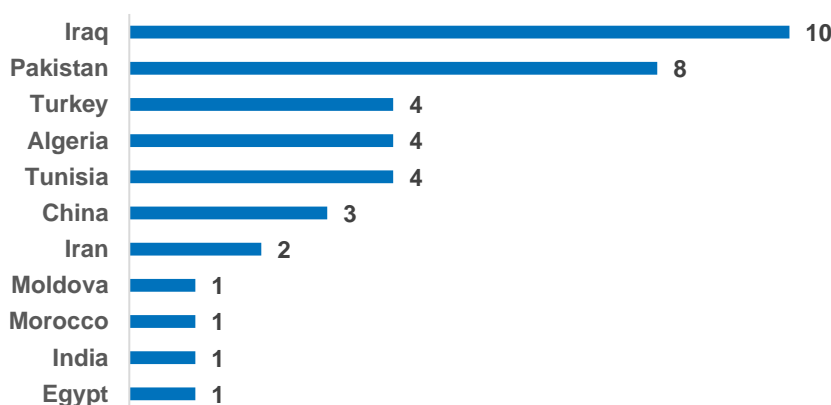
DRC, with the support of UNHCR-funding and in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) completed the rehabilitation works of the Department for the Treatment of Pulmonary and Infectious Diseases at the Cantonal Hospital "Dr. Irfan Ljubijankic, in Bihać. The renovated department aims to enhance the hospital's capacities and the increased needs of both local and refugee and migrant population. The official opening of the department was scheduled for beginning of January 2020

UNHCR together with VP BiH continue to provide information and assistance to asylum seekers and refugees regarding the family reunification procedure.

**Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration (AVRR)**

With the support of the EU and the Netherlands, IOM assisted 39 people in returning to their CoO in December.

**AVRR departures by countries of origin**



IOM provides outreach, dissemination of information, provision of counselling and logistical assistance to return and reintegration applying established eligibility criteria for AVR assistance, as well as for more comprehensive reintegration assistance, implemented consistently by IOM throughout the Western Balkan region. [IOM provides operational and logistical support in obtaining travel documents, facilitating fit-to-travel health checks, and providing airline tickets as well as transit assistance as required.](#) IOM AVRR assistance includes limited accommodation while waiting for repatriation (two days for all cases, and for the entire waiting period for vulnerable cases only), support in obtaining travel documents, travel costs, and limited cash-transfer for reinstallation and onward transportation in the country of return. For medical and vulnerable cases, medical costs as well as in-

kind reintegration assistance in the form of grants for education, training or business start-ups is provided.

[The Bihać CSW multidisciplinary team, in cooperation with UNICEF, continued organizing activities aimed at social cohesion of UASC and local adolescents.](#)

**In terms of other small-scale initiatives:**

- Integration activities for children from the Borići TRC take place at the CFS, including creative reading workshops, illustration, puppet creation, and art.
- The hair dressing salon established in the Sedra TRC by IOM is running with the supervision of ŽsU. The centre population provides hair dressing services.
- In Borići TRC, the IOM established social activities working group comprised of partners and community representatives organized various activities in the TRC
- One of the community-based initiatives (facilitated by DRC with UNHCR support) resulted in the preparation of sewing workshop which will be producing bed linen and hygiene items for both the community within TRC but also for local vulnerable population.
- World Vision provided a range of activities for those in the Ušivak TRC, including non-formal education activities, sports and recreational activities, and an information desk.

### [Safety and security](#)

IOM and Security staff are present 24/7 at all TRCs and working to prevent and respond to safety and security risks and incidents. Inspections and internal investigations of thefts and misconduct of the centre population are regularly carried out and video-surveillance or other distant monitoring mechanisms are in place in all centres excluding the Sedra TRC.

[Throughout the month of December, the security situation in all TRCs was relatively stable, with only a few security incidents reported. The minor incidents recorded were all resolved through disciplinary meetings with the people involved.](#)

[IOM has a Security Unit composed of an IOM staff member appointed as Security Assistant for each centre.](#) Security Assistants oversee the implementation of the Minimal Operating Security Standards and of coordinating all the security procedures.

IOM constantly works on improving measures to increase safety of personnel and centres population in the TRCs. For example, in December in Bira TRC IOM delivered 18 new handheld transceivers to improve the communication in the TRC. Also, IOM Regional Security Coordinator held a security orientation briefing for the new employees.

Furthermore, IOM took measures to increase safety of personnel and centres population by placing fire extinguishers and first aid kits in all sites. And installed smoke detectors and evacuation exits in all TRCs.

[During the reporting month in Bira TRC, IOM Security, Deputy CCCM and the Team Leaders organized a community meeting with the centres population in order engage the community leaders in the daily activities of the TRC and to maintain peace.](#) For example, to keep order in lines during food and NFI distribution. As a result of the meeting 12 Community Leaders were given duties as Wardens who immediately started contributing and were given orange vests. When issues occurred, they were elevated to CCCM level and addressed immediately.

A UN training for USC middle management police officers organised and delivered by UNHCR, IOM, UNHCR/DRC, UNICEF and UNFPA took place beginning of December. The aim of the training was to brief the participants on issues concerning protection, vulnerable categories and children, legal issues, status of UN Personnel, cultural mediators and implementing partners. About 60 police officers attended the training.

### [Communication and visibility](#)

The closure of Vučjak and migrants relocated to Canton Sarajevo attracted a large number of media including coverage from Council of Europe and local news Klix, N1, and Radio Free Europe. Furthermore, [Blažuj was visited by Cantonal Health Public Institute, and the delegations of EU, DRC, and Ambassador of Germany.](#)

During the month, delegation of cantonal and city representatives from Switzerland visited the Bira TRC, they also donated NFIs to centres population. Additionally, Bira TRC was visited by a number of journalists including the Amnesty International Switzerland, delegation of US Embassy and Al Jazeera Balkans.

Borići TRC was visited by Medical Student School Council who distributed 25 presents for the new year to UASC. BBC and Telegraph reporter also visited Borići.

[During the reporting month, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Dunja Mijatovic was visiting USC and presented her preliminary findings to the press on December 6th.](#)

## Map of Key Sites and Locations




**3W**
**Location**

	Una-Sana Canton						Ušivak TRC, Hadžići	House of All	Sarajevo Canton				HNC	Other			-
	USC, Other, estimate	Borići TRC, Bihać	Bira TRC, Bihać	Sedra TRC, Cazin	Miral TRC, Velika Kladuša	Žene sa Une			Blažuj TRC	Sarajevo, Other, estimate	Delijaš Asylum Centre	Salakovac Refugee RC		Tuzla and Mostar Other, estimate	Immigration Centre	Awaiting asylum, private accomm.	








**Key population estimates**
*(Population numbers below are a mixture of estimates and counts, depending on location. The numbers below are the most recent available. It must be kept in mind that populations at this sites fluctuate on a daily basis and the below is a snapshot) (5 January)*

Total Size	3,077	316	1,734	320	597	7	1,155	83	422	250	15	102	350	65	54	7,141
Of which, UASC	-	25	421	24	27	0	75	0	11	-	0	0	-	0	0	583
Of which, children	-	135	517	149	27	2	124	39	18	-	0	57	-	0	2	1,070
Of which, women & girls	-	139	0	132	0	2	39	23	0	-	8	50	-	0	1	394
Of which, single women	-	11	0	7	0	1	1	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	20
Of which, family members	-	270	164	287	0	3	128	81	15	-	15	102	-	0	5	1,070
Of which, asylum seekers	-	33	16	31	1	1	54	5	0	-	11	44	4	7	27	234
Of which, awaiting asylum registration	-	54	458	36	187	2	393	16	-	-	0	67	20	1	27	1,261

**Sector**

Shelter		-	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	IOM	SFA, IOM	ŽsU/ UNHCR	SFA, IOM	HoA	SFA, IOM	-	MoS/AS/ UNHCR	MHRR/ MoS/AS/ UNHCR	-	MoS, SFA	-	-
Centre Management		-	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	ŽsU	SFA, IOM	HoA	SFA, IOM	-	MoS/AS	MHRR/ MoS/AS	-	MoS, SFA	-	-
Protection		UNHCR/ DRC/VP/ IOM, CSW, UNICEF/ StC	UNHCR/ DRC/VP, UNICEF/ ŽsU/StC, IOM, CSW, UNFPA/ MdM	UNHCR/ DRC/VP, UNICEF/ ŽsU/StC, IOM, CSW, UNFPA/ MdM	UNHCR/ DRC/VP, UNICEF/ ŽsU/StC, IOM, CSW, UNFPA	ŽsU, DRC/ VP/UNH CR	UNHCR/ VP /BHWI/ DRC, CSW, UNICEF/ SoS, IOM	HoA, BHWI/ VP/ UNHCR, UNICEF	IOM/UN HCR/DR C/VP/BH WI/CSW	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI	MoS/AS, UNHCR/ BHWI/ VP, CSW	UNHCR/ BHWI/ VP, DRC, UNICEF/ WV, IOM, CSW	-	UNHCR/ BHWI/V P, CSW	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI	-	



<b>Health</b>		-	DRC, JRS, UNICEF, UNFPA/ MdM, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, UNICEF, UNFPA/ MdM, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, UNICEF, UNFPA/ MdM, DZ, CH	DRC, DZ, CH, JRS	DRC, DZ, CH	DRC, UNICEF/ WV/ SoS, DZ, CH	UNICEF/ WV/ SoS, DZ	DRC	-	MoS/AS/ UNHCR, DZ, CH, DRC	MoS/AS, UNHCR, DZ, CH, DRC, IOM	-	SFA, DZ	-	-
<b>Non-food items</b>	<b>NFI</b>	IOM, UNICEF	CoBRC, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF/ SiC/ŽsU	CoBRC, IOM, UNICEF/ SiC/ŽsU, CSW, UNFPA	IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF/ SiC/ŽsU	CoBRC, IOM	ŽsU	IOM, Pomozi, UNHCR, RC, Caritas, UNICEF/ SoS	HoA	IOM/ Pomozi/ Red Cross/	-	MOS/ AS/ UNHCR/ BHWI, Caritas	RC, UNHCR/ BHWI, UNICEF/ WV, Caritas	-	MoS/SF A	-	-
<b>WASH</b>		IOM	IOM	IOM, Caritas	IOM	IOM	ŽsU	IOM	HoA	IOM	Pomozi. ba	MoS/AS/ UNHCR	MHRR/MoS, UNHCR/ BHWI, UNICEF/ WV	-	MoS/SF A	-	-
<b>Security/Safety</b>		N/A	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	ŽsU	MoS/ SFA	HoA	MoS /SFA	N/A	MoS/AS/ UNHCR	MHRR/ UNHCR	-	MoS/SF A	-	-
<b>Transport/ Logistics</b>		IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	ŽsU, IOM	IOM, UNHCR/ BHWI	-	IOM, UNHCR/ BHWI	-	MoS/AS/ UNHCR/ BHWI, IOM	UNHCR/ BHWI, IOM	-	IOM	-	-
<b>Administrative/ Legal</b>		MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	MoS/ SFA/ AS, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	ŽsU, VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	VP/ UNHCR	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHCR/ VP	-	MoS/AS/ UNHCR/ VP	MHRR/ MoS/SFA/ AS, UNHCR/VP	-	MoS/SF A, UNHCR/ VP	VP	-
<b>Education</b>		-	UNICEF/ PA/ SiC/ MoE, IOM	UNICEF/ PA/ SiC/ MoE, IOM, CWS	UNICEF/ PA/ SiC/ MoE, IOM	-	UNICEF/ PA/ SiC/ MoE, IOM	UNICEF, WV/ SoS, IOM	UNICEF/ WV/ SoS, HoA, IOM	-	-	MoS/AS/ UNHCR/ BHWI	UNHCR/ BHWI, UNICEF/ WV	-	-	-	-
<b>Food and nutrition</b>		IOM/ CoBRC	IOM/ CoBRC, UNICEF/ ŽsU/StC	IOM/ CoBRC, UNICEF/ ŽsU/StC	IOM/CR C, UNICEF/ ŽsU/StC	IOM/ CRC	ŽsU	Pomozi. ba, IOM UNICEF/ WV/ SoS	HoA	Pomozi/ IOM/Red Cross	-	MoS/SA/ UNHCR, Caritas	RC/IOM, UNICEF/ WV, Caritas	-	MoS/SF A	-	-

**Acronyms:** AS, Asylum Sector / BHWI, Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative / CH, Cantonal Hospital / CoBRC, City of Bihać Red Cross / CRC, Cantonal Red Cross / CRS, Catholic Relief Services / CSW, Centre for Social Welfare (Municipal) / CT, The Czech Team / CWS, Church World Service / DZ, Public Health Centre (Municipal) / DRC, Danish Refugee Council / HoA, House of All / ICRC, International Committee of the Red Cross / IPSIA, Istituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione Acli / Emmaus, International Forum of Solidarity-Emmaus / IOM, International Organization for Migration / JRS, Jesuit Refugee Services / MdM, Médecins du Monde / MHRR, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees / MoE, Ministry of Education / MoS, Ministry of Security / PA, Pedagogic Academy / RC, Red Cross / RCSBiH, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina / SFA, Service for Foreigners' Affairs / SoS, SoS Children's Villages / UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund / UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees / UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund / VP, Vaša Prava BiH / WHO, World Health Organization / WV, World Vision / ŽsU, Žene sa Une.

## Coordination/Working in partnership

- Monthly UNHCR-IOM led coordination meetings take place in Sarajevo, widely inviting stakeholders engaged in the ongoing response and providing a forum for discussion.
- IOM organize weekly CCCM meetings in TRCs for partners to share updates, discuss the centre's situation and define action points.
- Bi-weekly coordination meetings take place in USC, widely inviting stakeholders.
- Sector specific meetings are organized as required in Sarajevo and USC.
- UNFPA lead GBV WG meetings on a monthly basis to ensure a coordinated, survivor centred inter-agency GBV response.
- Earlier this year the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Labour, Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees established an operational team to improve coordination of all governmental, non-governmental and international organizations dealing with the situation.

Sector	Organizer	Contact
<b>Sarajevo Monthly Coordination Meeting and Monthly Update</b>	UNHCR/IOM	<a href="mailto:trigka@unhcr.org">trigka@unhcr.org</a>
<b>USC</b>	UNHCR/IOM	<a href="mailto:husagic@unhcr.org">husagic@unhcr.org</a> <a href="mailto:vmitkovski@iom.int">vmitkovski@iom.int</a>
<b>CCCM, Shelter, WASH and Food</b>	IOM	<a href="mailto:drozic@iom.int">drozic@iom.int</a>
<b>Protection</b>	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:kokotovi@unhcr.org">kokotovi@unhcr.org</a>
<b>Child protection</b>	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:aluedeke@unicef.org">aluedeke@unicef.org</a>
<b>Gender Based Violence</b>	UNFPA	<a href="mailto:jurela@unfpa.org">jurela@unfpa.org</a>
<b>Health</b>	WHO	<a href="mailto:palom@who.int">palom@who.int</a>
<b>NFI</b>	IOM	<a href="mailto:isadikovic@iom.int">isadikovic@iom.int</a>
<b>Education</b>	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:skabil@unicef.org">skabil@unicef.org</a>

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### LINKS

UNHCR Data Portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>  
 UNHCR Help: <https://help.unhcr.org/bosniaandherzegovina/>  
 IOM Data Portal: <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>  
 IOM Support for Migrants Application: <http://supportformigrants.com/>  
 IOM AVR Information: <https://bih.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return>  
 IOM Migration Response: <https://bih.iom.int/iom-migration-response>  
 Media guidelines: <https://bih.iom.int/pbn/reporting-migration-and-refugees-brochure>  
 Asylum Information Brochure:  
[https://issuu.com/unhcrsee/docs/information\\_for\\_as\\_in\\_bih](https://issuu.com/unhcrsee/docs/information_for_as_in_bih)



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