

Bosnia and Herzegovina

01 - 31 August 2018

During August, health care was provided in Una-Sana Canton by local health care centres, supported by UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council, and Médecins Sans Frontières.

As of 31 August, winter appropriate accommodation only existed for approximately 200 of around 4,000 refugees and migrants in Una-Sana Canton.

Reports alleging violent push-backs from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina continue. International media and EU attention on the issue has increased.

KEY INDICATORS

3,400 – 3,900

Estimated number of refugees and migrants in Una-Sana Canton - August 2018

24 of 181 (identified)

Unaccompanied and separated children assigned a legal guardian - 1 Jan – 31 August 2018

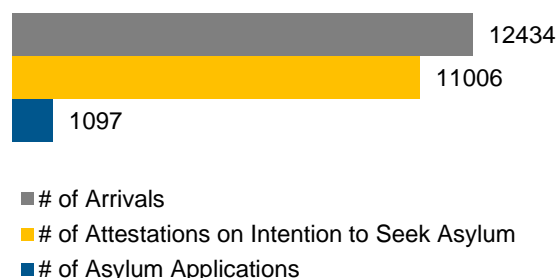
182 of 3,900 (3,900 is an estimate)

Refugees and migrants in Una-Sana Canton in winterized accommodation as of 31 August 2018

ACCESS TO ASYLUM

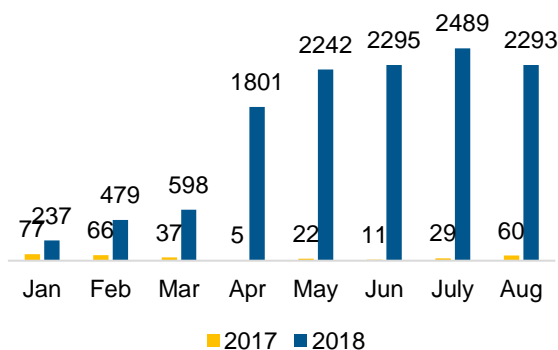
1,097 Asylum applications

People who have expressed an intention to seek asylum must then wait for the Sector for Asylum to invite them for an asylum registration interview. Those with no registered address cannot schedule an interview.



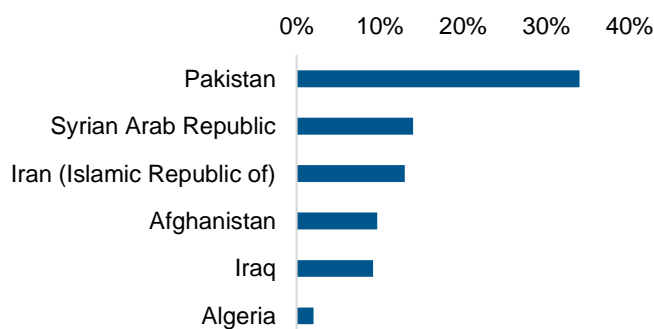
POPULATION OF CONCERN

Number of detected refugee and migrant arrivals to BiH per month



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Top refugee and migrant CoO* to BiH in 2018



*Refugee and migrant country of origin (CoO) is self-declared when documents are not available.

Operational Context

There have been 12,434 detected refugee and migrant arrivals to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2018 to-date, compared to 307 over the same period in 2017. The number of arrivals has stabilized, reaching close to 2,500 for the fourth consecutive month. A majority arrive overland from Serbia and some from Montenegro in an irregular manner (i.e. at non-official border crossings). Estimates of the number in need of humanitarian assistance at various locations throughout BiH remain high, with manageable numbers in Sarajevo and more concerning numbers in Una-Sana Canton (USC), where humanitarian needs are particularly critical. The latter location is linked to attempts to enter Croatia. The UN in BiH continues to express concern over increasing numbers of reports and first-hand accounts regarding refugees and migrants who allege to have experienced violent push-backs by Croatian police and sustained physical injuries as a result. International media attention on this issue also increased.

Limited progress continues to be made vis-à-vis the provision of winter appropriate accommodation in USC. The recently opened transit/reception centre in USC (TRC Sedra) for vulnerable individuals and families, managed by IOM and funded by the European Commission – DG ECHO, scaled-up capacity in August and can now accommodate up to 182 (final maximum capacity is expected to be 400). Refugees and migrants are voluntarily accommodated in TRC Sedra and are screened for medical needs and vulnerabilities. Those accommodated are also provided with a range of key basic services including food, medical assistance, provision of NFIs, free legal aid and psychosocial support.

Given capacity limits at TRC Sedra and the lack of operational alternatives, previously established informal settlements of varying size at a range of locations in USC persist as a stop-gap measure. The two largest such settlements are the so-called Borići Dormitory in Bihać and on a field in Trnovi in Velika Kladuša (VK). Though the population is highly volatile and numbers fluctuate on a daily basis, up to an estimated 1,170 refugees and migrants currently reside on just these two sites and the living and sanitary conditions continue to deteriorate and present a range of protection related concerns. An unknown number of refugees and migrants with limited funds are also reported to rent private accommodation in USC. The Borići Dormitory has been identified as having potential as a site to be winterized in order to address a portion of the remaining accommodation capacity gaps as winter approaches -- very real challenges to this alternative exist. In any case, even with the realization of all currently envisaged accommodation sites in USC, significant gaps would remain over winter.

A range of actors, on-site and through mobile teams at both formal and informal sites, operate in USC and directly provide or refer refugees and migrants to a range of services including transportation to and from key services, interpretation, free legal aid, protection sensitive accommodation, psychosocial support, and medical assistance. Specific services are also provided to children and mothers through a Child Friendly Space (CFS) and Mother Baby Corner (MBC) at the Borići Dormitory and in TRC Sedra. Among others, actors include UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, the Red Cross, local health care service providers,

the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Vaša Prava BiH (VP), Save the Children, World Vision, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), and independent volunteers. The USC Ministry of Interior continue to operate police patrols to improve the security of these sites.

The Ministry of Security (MoS) managed Asylum Centre (AC) in Trnovo Municipality, in Sarajevo Canton, regularly has additional accommodation space – basic services and primary health care included - for asylum seekers (maximum capacity of 154). Despite this, due to remoteness and limited transport links to the AC as well as a lack of internet access, many choose to sleep elsewhere, often in abandoned buildings in Sarajevo and without adequate shelter, sanitation, food, or medical care, while some are assisted by independent volunteer groups. An additional reception/transit centre (Ušivak) will shortly be opened by IOM – with support from the Council of Europe Development Bank - in Hadžići municipality, also in Sarajevo Canton, for up to approximately 400 refugees and migrants. This site is expected to be operational by the end of September.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) managed Refugee Reception Centre (RRC) in Salakovac, near Mostar, through an agreement with the Ministry of Security, offers accommodation – basic services and primary health care included - to asylum seekers (maximum capacity of 220) with a focus on families. A high proportion of accommodation capacity is regularly utilized here. UNICEF, in cooperation with World Vision, support the running of a CFS and MBC in the RRC.

A limited number of spaces in specialized accommodation facilities are available for people identified as particularly vulnerable, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and victims of GBV, through the Duje Reception Centre and NGO Žene sa Une. With reference to UASC, the provision of protection sensitive accommodation is hindered by challenges to the appointment of legal guardians.

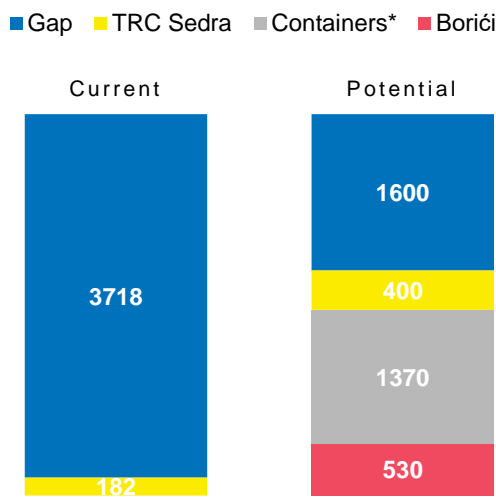
As regards access to asylum, the reluctance of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) to re-issue attestations on intention to seek asylum and the limited capacity of the Sector for Asylum to register and process asylum claims – along with other obstacles - hinder fair and efficient access for those in need of international protection. As of the end of July 2018, from 12,434 arrivals, 11,006 had formally expressed intention to seek asylum, yet only 1,097 had formally been able to lodge their asylum claim with the Sector for Asylum of the MoS. Among other obstacles are the need to have a registered address, compounded by the lack of available spaces in the AC and RRC and the aforementioned deterrents to asylum seekers residing in them, a lack of asylum registration staff in the Sector for Asylum, and a lack of interpretation.

Despite progress, more sustainable solutions addressing evident humanitarian needs must urgently be sought in USC and elsewhere, particularly as regards accommodation and health care as winter approaches. More also needs to be done to remove obstacles to fair and efficient asylum processes for those in need of international protection. The UN in BiH firmly advocates for a state-managed response, supported by national and international stakeholders.

Priorities

- Urgently seek and operationalize additional winter appropriate accommodation solutions and prepare existing centres for the fast approaching cold season.
- Improve the systemic identification, referral, and support services to UASC in collaboration with CSW.
- Improve access to fair and efficient asylum procedures by, among other actions, advocating for the SFA to systematically renew expired attestations of intention to seek asylum or to prolong their duration, and strengthening the asylum registration and refugee status determination capacities of the Sector for Asylum.
- Continue supporting BiH authorities at all levels to respond to existing and emerging needs.

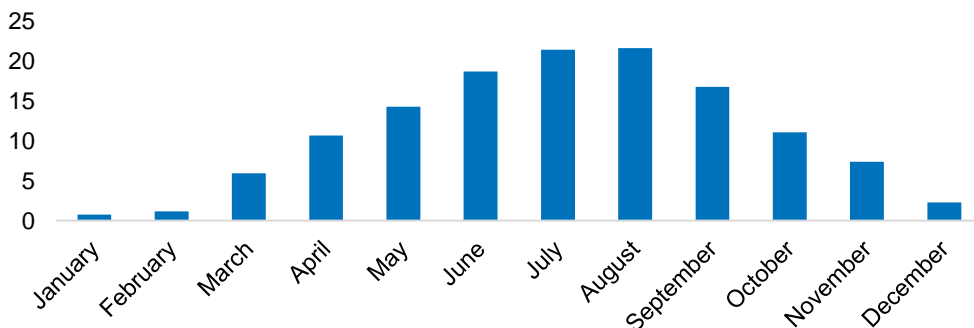
Accommodation in Una-Sana Canton



Accommodation gaps exist in USC. This will become an increasingly critical issue as winter approaches. The column to the left indicates the expected current gap, based on an estimate of 3,900 refugees and migrants in USC. The column on the right indicates the expected gap even if all currently identified potential accommodation sites become operational and to their maximum estimated capacities.

**container location pending*

Average Monthly Temperature BiH 2010-2015 (°C)



http://sdwebx.worldbank.org/climateportal/index.cfm?page=downscaled_data_download&menu=historical

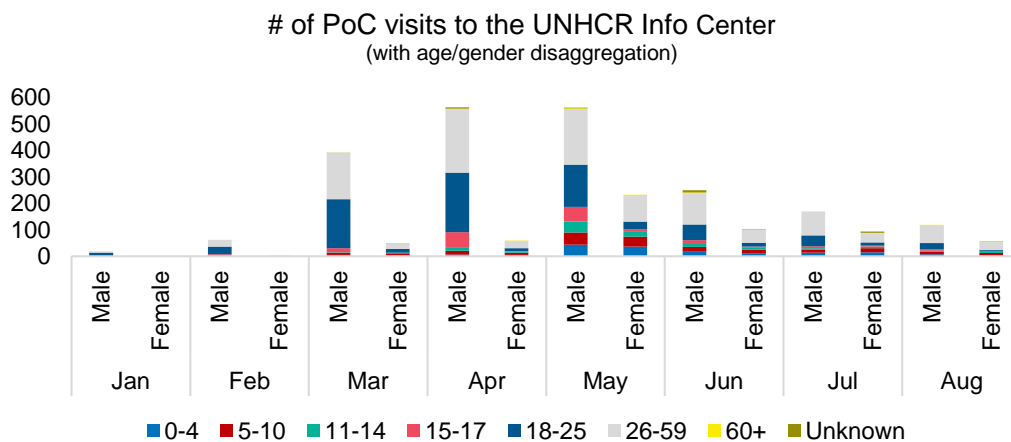
Achievements



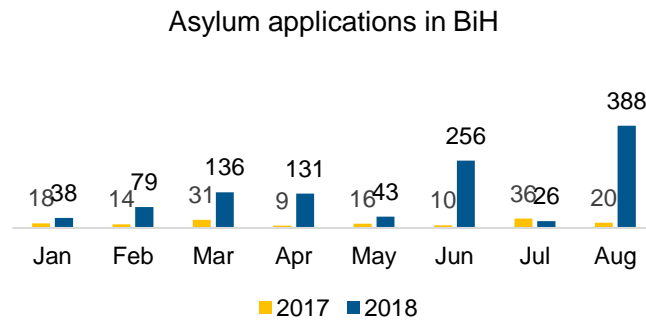
PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR Information Centre in Sarajevo continued to coordinate services for asylum seekers and refugees in the Sarajevo area, including referral for accommodation in the AC and the RRC, transportation, psychosocial support and free legal aid. Of note, a decline in the number of visitors to the UNCHR Information Centre has been observed over recent months from a peak of 793 in May to 174 in August.

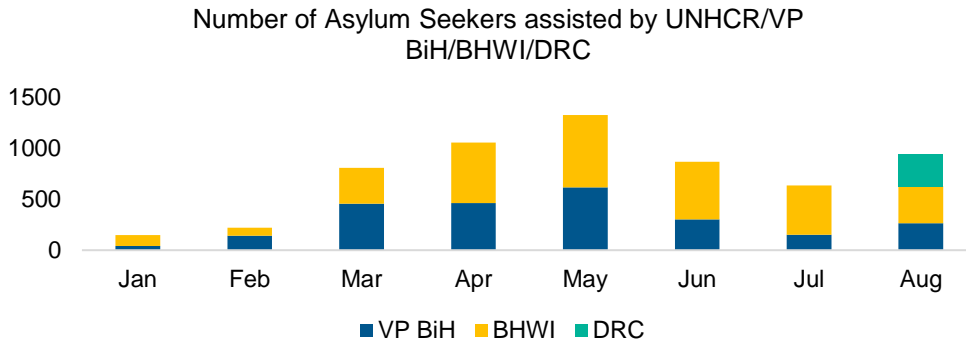


- In August, in support of access to fair and efficient asylum processes, 388 asylum registration interviews and four refugee status determination interviews took place, respectively conducted by the SFA and Sector for Asylum.

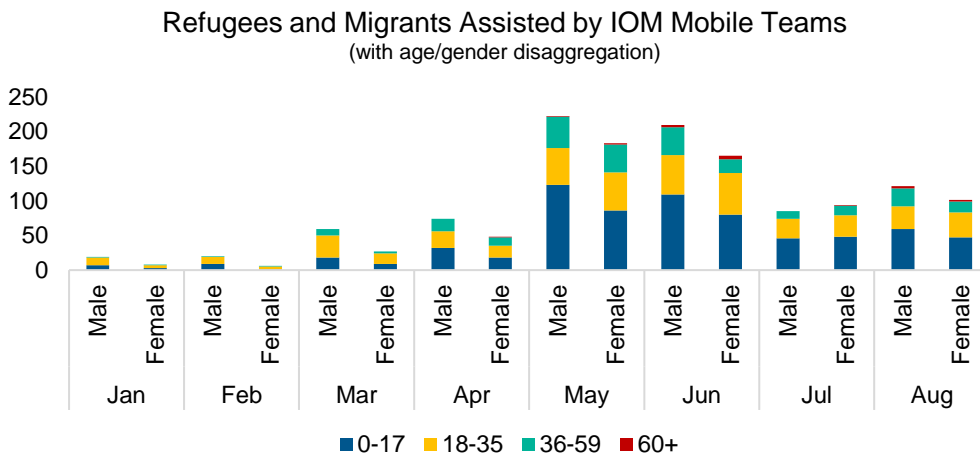


- In August, DRC provided information to, and identified and referred vulnerable individuals to relevant authorities and services in USC. Among other activities DRC profiled families sleeping rough at the Borići Dormitory and on the Trnovi field and identified 128 people (31 families) for relocation to TRC Sedra and 15 people (four families and one UASC) in need of protection sensitive accommodation and referred them to Žene sa Une. VP provide information, counselling, and legal assistance at both sites.

- In August, 364 asylum seekers and recognized refugees were supported by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women’s Initiative (BHWI) with NFIs, food, transportation, interpretation, psychosocial support, and medical interventions. Information, counselling, and legal assistance was provided to 264 asylum seekers by VP.



- In August, 226 (121 men, 101 women, four unknown, of which 106 minors) refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations were directly assisted by IOM mobile teams with NFIs, food, transportation, interpretation, referral to the SFA, and - to a minor extent - with medical assistance, psychosocial support and other referrals across the country (in total, 1,190 services – food provision excluded as it is reported separately - and 1,013 referrals were provided).
- Eighteen new IOM mobile team members were trained on migrant protection, including identifying indicators of trafficking in human beings.



- In August, in accordance with the Protocol for accommodation of vulnerable asylum seekers in the Duje Reception Centre of IFS-Emmaus, signed with BiH MoS and UNHCR, IFS-Emmaus provided accommodation for five particularly vulnerable asylum seekers, of which three were minors. Further, four vulnerable migrants, including two unaccompanied minors and a mother and child were accommodated at the IFS-Emmaus Reception Centre. VP provide information, counseling and legal aid to all asylum seekers residing at the Centre. Legal guardians, in cooperation with SFA, were appointed to

UASC by CSW Dobož East, during their accommodation at IFS-Emmaus Duje Reception Centre.

- UNHCR, through BHWI, engaged two social workers in USC to support for the appointment of legal guardians to UASC.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with Save the Children, Žene sa Une, and World Vision, supported the operation of a CFS in the RRC, in the vicinity of the Borići Dormitory, and in TRC Sedra. The CFS provide children with opportunities to develop, play, learn and strengthen their resilience as well as psychosocial counselling if needed. In August, on average, 45-55 children per day attended the CFS in the RRC, 35 children attended the CFS in Borići, and 15 in Ilidža.
- Save the Children, with UNICEF support, conducted a *Rapid Child Protection and Child Safeguarding Assessment of Formal Centres and Informal Camps for Accommodation of Refugees and Migrants in the Federation of BiH*, to provide information on child protection and safeguarding as well as safety risks in all centres and informal camps, respective roles and responsibilities of different actors, prevalence of psychosocial distress and availability of support mechanisms, existence of Code of Conduct standards, Child Safeguarding Policies, data information storage and information exchange among relevant actors, reporting mechanisms and procedures in cases of child protection incidences, as well as mechanisms for filing complaints. The report is expected to be released in September.
- Save the Children, with UNICEF support, developed a Guideline for Best Interests Determination for Children on the Move for CSW and a related training curriculum for CSW professionals. Training to CSW professionals of Sarajevo, Una-Sana, and Herzegovina-Neretva Cantons will be rolled-out in collaboration with BHWI in September and discussions in the training sessions will inform the finalization of the guideline.
- VP lawyers, supported by UNHCR, are present in both the AC (Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 – 15:00 with ad hoc visits in between for asylum registration and refugee status determination interviews) and the RRC (on a daily basis) and provide free information, counselling, and legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees. BHWI and World Vision support with interpretation in Farsi, Arabic, Pashto, Urdu, and English.
- BHWI staff, supported by UNHCR, including social workers and psychologists are present in the AC (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and the RRC (on a daily basis) and provide individual psychosocial support, group counselling activities, and sports and recreational activities for children.
- Good cooperation has been established by VP with the police administration in Ilidža and in Novi Grad with regard to lost or stolen asylum seeker cards and the necessary certificates are usually provided within a few days.
- The OSCE Mission to BiH has been working on an Assessment of the migrant situation and overview of the main actors in the field, which focuses on the roles and competencies of different stakeholders, the coordination among them, existing legislative gaps, and potential violations of the rights of refugees and migrants. In July, the OSCE conducted 181 interviews with 11 different types of stakeholders throughout

the country. In August, work was done to interpret the data and prepare the assessment. The Assessment is expected to be released in September.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There have been a significant number of recorded/reported violent push-backs from Croatia and continued monitoring is needed.
- Despite August seeing the highest number of asylum registration interviews to-date, large fluctuations have occurred month to month and access to a fair and efficient asylum procedures



Profiling at the Borići Dormitory site/UNHCR 2018

must be ensured. Advocacy needs to continue to ensure access is consistent and that those residing outside of the government managed centres and TRC Sedra also have access. Among other factors, access to the asylum procedure is impeded at various stages by the limited availability of information, the need for asylum seekers to have a registered address (impossible for those sleeping rough), a lack of asylum registration staff in the Sector for Asylum, and a lack of interpretation. As a result, a growing number of those in need of international protection in BiH have no effective access to the asylum procedure. Of additional concern is the short two-week validity period of the attestation of intention to seek asylum, issued by the SFA, and the difficulty to register an asylum claim with the MoS, Sector for Asylum, within this timeframe: failure to do this may cause many to be considered to be in BiH irregularly.

- The Sector for Asylum has limited capacity to conduct the asylum registration procedure and to make timely positive decisions or rejections. As a result, the process is slow and leaves asylum seekers without legal documentation (an asylum seeker card).
- In August, VP submitted a number of requests for the re-issuing of expired expressions of intention to seek asylum to the SFA which were not approved and in some cases no response was provided. It was asked that each request include evidence that the asylum seeker had no access to the AC, which would serve as objective evidence that the asylum seeker was not able to apply for asylum within the deadline.
- At the end of August, 10 asylum seekers were detained in the Immigration Centre.
- Identification and referral of and support to UASC continues to be challenging for the BiH authorities, especially the appointment of legal guardians to UASC authorized to make decisions in their best interest, as required by law.
- Information on different aspects of protection and support should be made more accessible in a child friendly manner.
- In August, UNFPA activated emergency funds for provision of GBV and specialized sexual and reproductive health services until the end of the year (including provision of dignity kits and empowerment programmes for vulnerable individuals).

- Transportation between Sarajevo and the AC is limited and inhibits the freedom of movement of asylum seekers residing there. Though transport links exist between the RRC and Mostar, the limited financial resources of many of those residing in the RRC inhibits their movement. The above can also have a negative influence on the willingness of asylum seekers to be accommodated in these locations.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF and Save the Children conducted a *Rapid Assessment of Education Needs of Refugee and Migrant Children in BiH*. A total of 155 children, 76 parents and other caregivers, six schools and preschool directors, three Ministry of Education representatives and one Municipality were interviewed in the following locations: Cazin, Salakovac, Sarajevo, VK, Trnovo, and Bihać. The assessment is expected to be released by the end of September.
- UNICEF agreed with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministries of Education to adapt a Manual for schools on the inclusion of refugee and migrant children in the public education system, developed in Serbia, to the context of BiH. This Manual offers guidance to schools, teachers, and education policy makers on how to best create conditions for ensuring the right to education to all children and is a practical and valuable resource not only for schools but for other professionals working with and for children as well. Following the meeting with UNICEF, the Minister of Civil Affairs officially sent a letter to the Minister of Education of Serbia to seek approval for the use and adaptation of the Manual to the BiH context. A unification of the procedures at the state level is needed as a framework for action of relevant education authorities and the Ministry of Civil Affairs in this process has the key coordination role in ensuring the inclusion and coordination of all actors.
- BHWI, supported by UNHCR, provided education activities for 57 children in the RRC and the AC. More specifically, a kindergarten program for three – four year olds and a program for school preparation for five year olds, including Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian language classes.
- Child asylum-seekers participated in creative workshops, as well as literacy courses held in the Centre for Children and Youth at Duje by professional staff educator-psychologist and others.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Zero children of school age in either formal or informal sites across BiH will be enrolled in schools as of the first day back to school in September. There is an urgent need to establish responsibilities and clear procedures for the enrollment of refugee and migrant children in the regular education system, extending to assessment of the learning status, health and specifically the immunization status, as well as transport.

- There is a lack of comprehensive provision of non-formal education, in particular among new arrivals, to prepare for refugee and migrant children's gradual inclusion into the BiH school system, including relevant language courses. A UNICEF, child-focused, rapid assessment recommended to further evaluate the specific education needs of refugee and migrant children and what needs to be put in place to facilitate their inclusion into regular primary and secondary schools.
- There is a lack of comprehensively organized and structured activities for adolescent refugees and migrants.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- Primary health care continues to be provided for asylum seekers residing in the AC and RRC through agreements with health centres in Trnovo and Mostar. In both locations, twice weekly visits of medical professionals are provided and ambulance services are available when needed. In Sarajevo, in lieu of a similar agreement for the time being, primary health care is facilitated by BHWI in a more case by case manner. In August, BHWI facilitated 29 primary medical interventions. Secondary health care at the AC, RRC, and in Sarajevo is also provided on an ad hoc basis in particularly urgent and life-threatening cases by UNHCR's partner BHWI. In August, BHWI facilitated 19 secondary (and nine tertiary medical interventions). BHWI also followed-up on cases during the medical treatment and once discharged from the hospital, ensured that they have all the required medication, appropriate accommodation, and NFIs as required.
- In collaboration with DRC, medical assistance in Cazin and Bihać continued through the engagement of medical teams through primary health centres, who provide medical assistance to refugees and migrants at various locations. In August, a total of 222 medical examinations were conducted by the medical team in TRC Sedra (present in TRC Sedra five days per week, 10:00 – 13:00) and 796 medical examinations were conducted by a medical team at the Borići Dormitory (present in the Borići Dormitory six days per week, 09:00 – 13:00). DRC provided medical escort for treatment in health centres on 24 occasions for 57 persons. The patients were escorted to the health centre in Bihać (11 people), the health centre in Cazin (6 people) and the Cantonal hospital (40 people). Of this number, 26 people were transported from the Borići Dormitory and 31 from TRC Sedra. MSF handed over support for the mobile clinic team in Bihać to DRC in August. MSF continued to provide medicines and supplies for the mobile clinic, including a medical container to be used as consultation space in the Borići Dormitory.
- In VK, MSF, in collaboration with local health care centres, operated a mobile medical clinic in informal refugee and migrant settlements three days per week (12 working days in August). A total of 471 consultations were made. Most patients needed treatment for skin diseases (commonly different types of skin infections or inflammations), musculoskeletal complaints (joint, muscle or back pain), and upper respiratory tract

infections. One patient was treated for symptoms of hypothermia that are likely to increase with the expected drop in temperatures during the coming months. There were four documented cases of cross-border violence seen in the VK mobile clinic. Other patients received medical assistance for gastro-intestinal complaints, accidental or intentional injuries, dental complaints, eye diseases, and chronic conditions. There were 12 reported referrals to hospitals/health structures from the mobile clinic. Reasons for referral included injuries, mental health symptoms and pregnancies.

- DRC medical teams conducted a screening of infective and skin diseases for all new arrivals in TRC Sedra, as well as provided treatment for affected people. The medical team recorded 47 people with head lice and three people with scabies.
- DRC and the Cantonal Hospital in Bihać reached an agreement for covering the costs of secondary health care services and UNHCR and DRC. During the month of August, 45 patients received secondary health care services at the Cantonal Hospital in Bihać.
- DRC completed a tender procedure for the provision of needed medications to be provided by the medical teams engaged in the field. Further, DRC launched a tender procedure for the provision of basic medical equipment for the medical unit in TRC Sedra and for a mobile medical container at the Borići Dormitory.
- IFS-Emmaus provided primary medical assistance and health protection for seven asylum seekers and migrants accommodated in the Duje Reception Centre. This included general medical examinations and interventions, including dental check-ups and interventions, the hospitalisation and treatment of a child in the Tuzla Clinical Centre, with financial assistance from UNHCR.
- For refugees and migrants outside of the AC and RRC, in particular in USC, UNHCR, UNHCR partners, and IOM make referrals. For example, in August, IOM provided medical assistance in four cases, medical referrals in 441 cases, psychosocial counselling in 36 cases and referral to psychosocial assistance in 74 cases across BiH. Additionally, IOM continues to assist government authorities, UNHCR and UNHCR partners with transportation of refugees and migrants in need of medical care to health care facilities.
- UNICEF has been in discussions with relevant health authorities in regards to the provision of primary pediatric health services in USC and procurement of vaccines and provision of childhood immunization services.
- The World Health Organization have begun discussions with relevant BiH institutions with a view to providing technical assistance and conducting advocacy initiatives.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The health situation is expected to be severely negatively impacted by the lack of appropriate accommodation. As winter and colder and wetter weather approaches, there is an urgent need for appropriate accommodation for refugees and migrants. Exposure to the elements and crowded living conditions (for example in the Borići Dormitory) can cause or increase the likelihood of a number of serious health conditions and contagious infections/diseases as well as inhibit their treatment. One case of hypothermia has already been identified and treated.

- Asylum seekers and migrants do not have access to secondary health care unless the costs are covered by themselves, by volunteers or by international or non-governmental organizations and only limited funds are available. Further, the cost of health care for foreigners in BiH can be considerably more expensive than it is for nationals. Though significant progress has been made in this regard, agreements with relevant institutions at various levels need to be reached to ensure that all such health care costs incurred are uniformly and consistently charged at the rate applied to citizens of BiH.
- Current mobile health units have not been engaged to deal specifically with issues relevant for children such as the provision of primary pediatric health services or immunization services. The Institutes of Public Health need to give clear guidance on the process of immunizing refugee and migrant children so when vaccines are available, the health teams have clear instructions on who to immunize.
- There is an urgent need to ensure that refugee and migrant children have access to paediatricians and nurses specialised in child healthcare so refugee and migrant children have access to quality primary healthcare.
- There is a need to do a mass screening and treatment for scabies and body lice in the Borići Dormitory. This would need to be a coordinated activity with many partners.
- Procurement of medicine and drugs for asylum seekers residing at the RRC is still conducted in Sarajevo. There is a need to conclude an agreement with a pharmacy in Mostar as the current set-up can cause delays.
- First-line refugee and migrant responders lack training vis-à-vis the identification of communicable diseases and ways to effectively address these.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- In the month of August, 78,251 meals were distributed in USC with IOM and USAID support: in TRC Sedra, the Cantonal Red Cross distributed 10,030 meals; 62,519 meals were distributed in the Borići Dormitory by the Bihać Red Cross (with support from the Czech Team volunteers), and 5,700 in VK through volunteers. Leaflets in different languages have also been distributed to increase awareness about food distribution modalities in VK.
- IOM and UNICEF agreed on cooperation modalities for the procurement and distribution of baby food and infant formula as well as counseling on breastfeeding and nutrition. In TRC Sedra, children are also provided with fruit and other supplementary food items.
- Asylum seekers accommodated in the AC are provided with a monthly food package by the MoS in accordance with recommendations made by a nutritionist at the Sarajevo



Red Cross in Borići Dormitory /Red Cross, 2018

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 in the Centre. In addition, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided a range of fresh vegetables, canned foods, coffee and tea, and sweets. Food is also provided for irregular migrants placed in the IC.

- The Red Cross of the City of Mostar prepared and distributed 15,538 meals to asylum seekers residing in the RRC. Of these, 5,186 were hot meals (lunch) and 10,372 were cold meals (breakfast and dinner).
- IFS-Emmaus provided a hot meal as well as milk, yoghurt, and fruit on a daily basis to those accommodated at the Duje Reception Centre. In total, over 1,000 hot meals were provided. Further, specific age appropriate food was provided for a six-month old baby over the month of August.
- In the Trnovi field, in VK, IFS-Emmaus prepared and distributed two hot meals per day at 11:00 and 19:00. Over 13,640 hot meals were provided in August; additional food outside of meal times was provided as needed, including for children. Costs (food, meal preparation and distribution) were covered by IFS-Emmaus during the period 01 – 26 August. Since 27 August, meal costs have been covered by Muslimhelfen.
- IFS-Emmaus received a donation of 2,201 kg of meat during Eid Al-Fitr, which has been appropriately stored and will be prepared and distributed in time.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with Save the Children, Žene sa Une, and World Vision, supported the running of MBC in the RRC, the Borići Dormitory, and in TRC Sedra (the latter became operational in August). The MBC provide parents with Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling, information/awareness raising on breastfeeding, and hygiene, and supports the provision of food and hygiene products. In August, World Vision supported 15 mothers with babies and infants and also supplied through the MBC diapers, wet wipes, and baby creams as well as hygiene packages for mothers. In USC in August, Žene sa Une and Save the Children, provided support to 30 mothers and 20 children below two years of age, including the provision of NFIs such as clothes for babies, food and hygiene products.
- World Vision and SoS Children's Villages provided a range of food items through partner organizations at a range of locations (3.5 tons through the FBiH Red Cross, one ton through Pomozi.ba, and 3.5 tons through Emmaus).
- Caritas and CRS provided food items at the Borići Dormitory.
- Food is provided by independent volunteers in Sarajevo twice a day, for a total of about 300 meals a day (lunch and dinner).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to adequate food and nutrition (supplements such as vitamins, where needed) for babies, children, and pregnant women is insufficient or insecure. This is particularly the case in Bihać and VK.
- A number of actors in charge of food distribution need to adapt activities to the nutritional needs of children, with a special focus on children under five to ensure that their needs

are met. This includes training frontline workers on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

- With the increased number of refugees and migrants in need, in tandem with the extended duration of their stay, a number of actors offering food are running out of resources and there is a risk that these services will be discontinued. For example, food provision at the RRC is not guaranteed in the medium to long term.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- Six sanitary containers with toilets and showers are installed at the Borići Dormitory, in Bihać. Given the large numbers at the site, additional containers need to be procured urgently - this is underway with IOM and USAID support.
- Construction works to refurbish existing and build new toilets and showers in TRC Sedra are underway. Works are expected to be finalized by mid-September, thus allowing the relocation of an additional 200 people to the site.
- IOM installed a chlorinator system for water purification in TRC Sedra; water testing is ongoing.
- The laundry system in TRC Sedra is ready for use pending positive water test results.
- Preparation for the installment of sanitary containers in Ušivak is ongoing.
- In order to address water issues in the RRC (the Salakovac area in general had water issues in August), the Red Cross of the City of Mostar distributed 750 litres of bottled water and procured and installed a 1,000 litre storage tank with multiple faucets for ease of use, which is filled daily.
- MSF supports No Name Kitchen in VK with the provision of showers for refugees and migrants. Approximately 11 percent of the showers were medically indicated (i.e. for skin diseases such as scabies and body lice, as part of the treatment).
- MSF, in collaboration with the Red Cross, renovated a laundry space in the Borići Dormitory and provided four washing machines and two dryers that have been operational since 13 August. There are two hygiene agents running the laundry five days per week, eight hours per day. Since the start of operations, 168 washing cycles have been completed, serving approximately 300 refugees and migrants.



New 1,000 litre water storage tank at the RRC/Red Cross, August 2018

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WASH facilities are not available to a large enough number of refugees and migrants on a frequent enough basis, in particular in Bihac and VK.



SHELTER AND NFI

Achievements and Impact

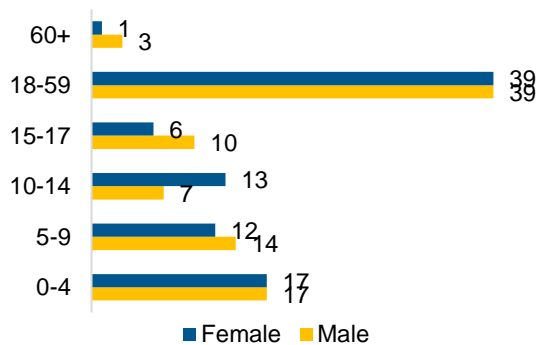
- As of 31 August, 182 vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants (all families and children) were accommodated in TRC Sedra. Upon arrival, refugees and migrants are registered by camp administration and by the SFA, they are provided with clean bedding, clothes and sanitary supplies as per need, and have access to three meals per day. At the centre, they have access to free legal aid, health care assistance, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) counseling, and psychosocial support provided by UNHCR implementing partners and IOM. With UNICEF support, children and mothers have also access to a CFS and MBC. Camp coordination and security of the centre are provided 24/7 by IOM. Volunteers from the Czech Team and JRS supported IOM in various ways and also provided activities for children.



A family just arrived to Sedra / IOM August 2018

- Works to enable accommodation of an additional 200 people at TRC Sedra are underway. These include rehabilitation of dismantled rooms, refurbishment of toilets, cleaning and disinfection of kitchens, installment of additional beds, and expansion of the Wi-Fi network to the whole building. A fence has also been installed around TRC Sedra, to secure the site.

Age-Gender Distribution of Asylum Seekers in TRC Sedra at the end of August



- In the Borići Dormitory, roof repairs and the installment of a fence around the building area have been agreed with local authorities and the construction company is ready to commence in early September, with IOM and USAID support. The building and surrounding area have been thoroughly cleaned and personnel has been recruited to perform small reparations on

site. IOM will also install Wi-Fi and guarantee the security of the site through the engagement of additional security personnel.

- At the planned Ušivak site, construction works for the installment of containers and refurbishment of the kitchen and common areas are ongoing. Sixty-six accommodation containers and bedding equipment have been purchased and will be installed as soon as possible. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between IOM and the SFA defining cooperation modalities in the management of the centre.
- The AC, can accommodate up to 120 asylum seekers. Occupancy rates fluctuate on a daily basis, in particular for single men. At the end of August, the AC accommodated 19 family members, including nine children, from six families and 54 single men (of which 40 arrived during the month of August). On occasion, asylum seekers refuse to be accommodated at the AC because, among other factors, of the lack of internet access and the remote location of the AC and lack of transportation options.
- Following UNCT advocacy, and the opening of the RRC for asylum seekers by the BiH Authorities in May, the RRC began to take referrals in June; referrals continued in July and August. The average nightly occupancy in August was 155. As of the end of the month, the 129 asylum seekers accommodated in the RRC were comprised of 33 families, including 64 children. The Red Cross and BHWI provide NFIs in the RRC on a daily basis.
- Four very vulnerable families (15 people) in need of protection sensitive accommodation were identified and referred by DRC to Žene sa Une.
- An independent volunteer managed house in Ilidža, the House of All (HoA), continued to provide shelter to refugees and migrants with the support of local charities and individual donors. The house accommodated up to 19 families (between 70 and 90 people) and provides a range of services: food, medical aid, legal assistance (in collaboration with UNHCR's partner VP) and activities for kids (in collaboration with Save the Children) and adults.
- IFS-Emmaus provided NFIs to nine people accommodated at Duje Reception Centre. NFIs included shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, hygiene pads, creams, toilet paper, towels, laundry detergent, footwear, diapers, baby creams, baby shampoo, baby clothes. In the Trnovi field in VK, IFS-Emmaus distributed over 300 packs of hygiene supplies, 50 packages of clothes and footwear, as well as blankets, pillows, and mattresses. Moreover, in response to extensive rainfall that fell in this location in August, IFS-Emmaus distributed 150 blankets and 50 pillows, with the support of the local population. Finally, additional blankets, pillows, mattresses, clothes, and footwear were distributed to 100 refugees and migrants who came to, but do not reside in, the Trnovi field.
- CRS and Caritas distributed a number of monthly hygiene packages and products in the AC, the RRC, and in TRC Sedra, including baby diapers.
- The Czech Team provided NFIs at the Borići Dormitory, primarily for hygiene products for laundry services and plastic bags.
- In August, IOM distributed NFIs to 237 individuals in various locations.

- The Red Cross of the City of Mostar provided hygiene items to asylum seekers residing in the RRC, including diapers for children.
- World Vision and SoS Children’s Villages provided a range of NFIs through the FBiH Red Cross (84 pillows, 30 toddler blankets, 1,400 t-shirts, 1,492 pieces of underwear, 4,080 5ml packets of shampoo).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Large numbers of refugees and migrants, including families with children and other vulnerable categories, sleep in substandard conditions in a range of locations across the country, particularly in USC. Estimates of the total number of refugees and migrants in USC in need of accommodation vary greatly, but the number could be over 4,000. During the last week in August it was estimated that two sites alone hosted up to 1,170 people (the Bihać Dormitory and vicinity hosted between 650 and 720 people and the Trnovi field in VK hosted 300 to 450 people). Neither the currently operational accommodation, the currently planned accommodation, nor the potentially foreseen accommodation under the best case scenario would be sufficient. The impending winter is of particular



An informal settlement in Velika Kladuša / UNHCR, August 2018

concern and actors, including MSF, assert that increased levels of morbidity and even mortality can be expected, especially among the most vulnerable.

- There is a need for clear referral mechanisms to and among accommodation facilities as appropriate. In particular, there is a need for clear referral mechanisms and guaranteed access for UASC to TRC Sedra.
- The electricity supply to the Borići Dormitory needs to be improved; laundry services were discontinued for a number of days in August due to a lack of electricity.
- Though the climate is generally more favourable in Mostar than in other locations in the country, there is a need to procure additional heating units for the RRC, which does not have a central heating system.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND SOCIAL COHESION

Achievements and Impact

- In August, IOM provided AVRR counselling to 55 people and assisted 18 people to return to their countries of origin. IOM AVRR assistance includes accommodation while waiting for repatriation, support in obtaining travel documents, travel costs and cash transfers for facilitating their reintegration.
- The child of an asylum seeker residing in the RRC was registered in the Mostar City birth records with the support of UNHCR’s legal aid partner, VP. The child will have an asylum seeker card issued and will have access to services and rights.
- Through a project supported by USAID and implemented by IOM, children accommodated in TRC Sedra joined a football tournament with children from Cazin municipality.



Refugee/migrant children hosted in Sedra and Cazin children playing football together / IOM August 2018

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IOM continues to work on the establishment of faster and simpler procedures for obtaining travel documents for those migrants expressing a wish to return to their home countries by raising awareness on AVRR among consular representatives of the main countries of origin.
- Limited opportunities for employment, income generation, and self-reliance exist in BiH for asylum seekers and recognized refugees who wish to stay in BiH.



LOGISTICS

Achievements and Impact

- IOM Mobile Teams provided transportation to 410 migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations (families, children, pregnant women, individuals with medical conditions, etc.) to and from the SFA, reception facilities, and medical centres, based on identified needs, vulnerability criteria, and in coordination with the SFA, the Border Police, and other actors on the ground.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Insufficient transportation options still present a challenges to service access for migrants and asylum seekers in certain locations. In particular, transportation to and from the AC is limited and acts as a deterrent to asylum seekers residing there.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

Achievements and Impact

- Multiple reports by international (DW, Reuters, the Guardian, ARD, SBS news) and regional media (BIRN, N1) emerged during the reporting period about events relating to violent pushbacks at the Croatian border.
- The Bosniak representative of the Presidency of BiH, the Ministry of Security, the Prime Minister of USC, and a number of delegations from Embassies, UN Agencies and nongovernmental organizations visited TRC Sedra.
- In August 2018 alone, around than 1,400 media features and articles in local media outlets on the situation in BiH were released of which more than 50 referred to UN agencies or carried the messages and positions of the UN team in BiH.
- Refugee.Info (International Rescue Committee/Mercy Corps) previously conducted a scoping of the communications environment and information needs of the people on the move in BiH to assess whether the Refugee.Info platform (also active in Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Italy) could support local actors in information provision. Refugee.Info has begun building an online and searchable map of services for migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some media outlets continue to publish uninformed and xenophobic and falls short of the professional and ethical standards of journalism which oblige journalists and editors to objectively, comprehensively, uniformly, and humanely report on migrants and asylum seekers. Negative reporting in local media on the migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Una Sana Canton continued in August.

Working in partnership

- Sectoral meetings in USC take place on a bi-weekly basis, widely inviting actors working to address humanitarian needs. Other ad hoc coordination meetings are organized as necessary.
- Bi-weekly coordination meetings take place in Sarajevo, widely inviting



Una-Sana Canton coordination meeting / UNHCR, August 2018

- stakeholders concretely engaged in the ongoing humanitarian response. Other sector specific coordination meetings are arranged as necessary.
- UNHCR prepares these monthly updates on behalf of the UNCT in BiH. They are published on the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina website: http://ba.one.un.org/content/unct/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/publications.html
- Information on actions of institutions/organizations/individuals are collected on voluntary basis. Refugee/migration statistics presented in this document are provided by Government of BiH and partner agencies. UN in BiH is not responsible for the accuracy of information provided by non-UN sources.

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LINKS

UNHCR Data Portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

IOM: <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>

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