Bosnia and Herzegovina: Interagency Response to Mixed Movement

MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT-DECEMBER 2020

UNITED NATIONS
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ETC Lipa was destroyed by fire shortly after its closure on 23 December, resulting in a humanitarian emergency

Life saving outreach activities in below-zero enviroment of Una-Sana Canton forest camps and squats are regularly implemented by RC, IOM, DRC

529
New arrivals in December
(source: MoS BiH)

6,051
Persons in formal accommodation
(at the end of the month, source MoS, MHRR, IOM, UNHCR)

1,900 – 2,700
Persons outside
(at the end of the month, source DRC, local authorities)

Arrivals

During December 2020, BiH authorities registered the arrival of 529 migrants and asylum-seekers to the country, bringing the total for 2020 to 16,150 (of which 351 were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)). The majority of people arriving in December declared to be from Afghanistan (29%), Pakistan (17%) and Morocco (11%).

Presence in BiH at the End of the Month

Overall, it is estimated that between 8,000 and 8,800 migrants and asylum-seekers are in the country at the end of December 2020. 6,051 migrants and asylum-seekers are sheltered in reception centres (close to 4,350 in Sarajevo Canton (SC) and 1,720 in Una-Sana Canton (USC)) while 1,900-2,700 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mainly in USC, including 900 at the Lipa site. Among those people in reception facilities, some 73% are single adult males, 19% are families with children and about 8% are UASC.

Key Gaps and Challenges

Closure of ETC Lipa

On 23 December 2020, the Emergency Tent Camp (ETC) Lipa, Una-Sana Canton (USC) was officially closed due to its unsuitability for winter conditions. On the same day, a fire destroyed part of the camp, fortunately not causing casualties. As a consequence, the humanitarian situation of migrants and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has deteriorated dramatically with current humanitarian and protection needs exceeding the response capacity. On 29-30 December, State authorities attempted the relocation of all migrants from Lipa to army barracks in Konjic in Hercegovina-Neretva Canton municipality, but the relocation was cancelled following protests by the host community. At the end of the year, approximately 900 migrants and asylum-seekers remained on the site of the former ETC Lipa without access to basic services and adequate accommodation, many went on a hunger strike, asking for the EU to allow them entry and for immediate decent shelter solution.

Given the above and the continuous appeal from the United Nations, the European Union and other actors to intervene, former residents of ETC Lipa were temporarily accommodated in tents set up by the BiH Army and assisted by IOM, the Red Cross and other humanitarian actors, under the supervision of the BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), after BiH Government decided to set up a provisional camp near the former Emergency Tent Camp. Although, the conditions at the site remain precarious with very low temperatures and surrounding minefields. IOM with partners and local authorities managed to provide basic amenities, such as electricity, heating and water.

POPULATION OVERVIEW ACCOMODATED AND ASSISTED AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2020

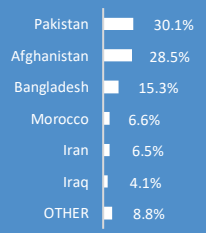
73%
Single adult males

19%
Families with children

9%
Women and girls

8%
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

Top declared Countries of Origin of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Migrants Accommodated in BiH at the end of December



On 30 December 2020, the Council of Ministers issued the decision that Lipa would be converted to an official reception centre, with State authorities in the lead and IOM providing technical support and funding, through European Union support. The conversion has started and will last a minimum of 3-4 months, depending on the weather conditions.

Accommodation capacities

Compared to 2020, the official capacity for accommodation in BiH has been reduced from 8,282 to 4,760 beds by the closure of TRC Bira and ETC Lipa in the last quarter of 2020. While IOM provided additional beds and increased the capacity in the Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) Miral and Blazuj to accommodate more than 1,000 and 3,000 additional persons respectively, they remain overcrowded. Protection and health risks of migrants and asylum-seekers residing in these TRCs are aggravated by high occupancy rates, particularly considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outreach

On 5 December, after a failed attempt to cross the BiH - Croatia border, some 53 families (199 members of whom 105 were children) staying in abandoned houses in Bosanska Bojna near the Croatian border were transferred to TRCs in Sedra and Borici by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). At the same time, 39 asylum-seekers left RRC Salakovac heading to Velika Kladusa, led by rumors that the Croatian police were allowing people to cross the border and enter Croatia. IOM outreach team assisted migrants/asylum-seekers who agreed to be accommodated in TRCs with transportation.

Setbacks with Registration

SFA did not register migrants and asylum-seekers in the two main reception centres in USC (TRC Miral and TRC Lipa) in December. The main reason for such practice is related to the fact that both centres are overcrowded and there is no possibility of accommodating additional persons. In addition, SFA informed that the legal placement of new users would pose a direct threat to the already questionable security situation. A lack of timely and harmonized registration and sound case-management prevents agencies from being able to adequately address protection needs. UNHCR will organize a meeting with SFA Bihac to address, among other things, the lack of timely and quality registration in reception centres and in the SFA Bihac field office.

Rise in Negative Attitudes towards Migrants and Asylum-seekers

The UN notes an increase in hate speech, racism and xenophobia in public space, very much related to the unfolding of the humanitarian crisis in USC with the closure of ETC Lipa. There are ongoing talks about strong and coordinated approach in addressing this issue as well as mainstreaming correct information about the mixed movement issues to BiH public and to migrants and asylum-seekers through a Communications WG to be formed by BiH MoS, SFA, Border Police, UNHCR and IOM.

Key Achievements

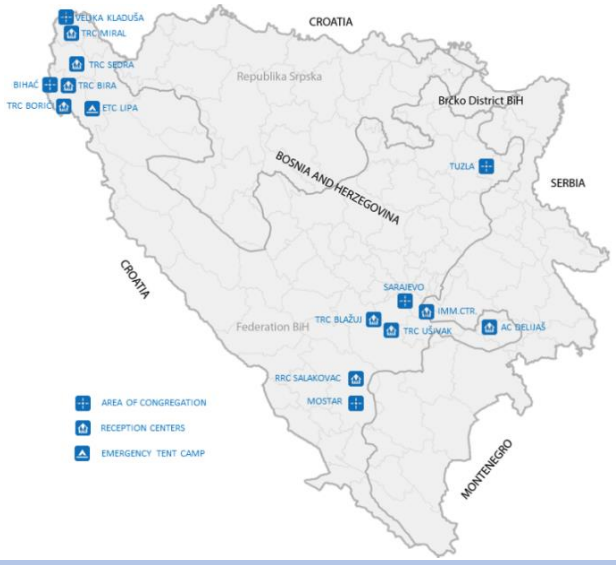
On 16 December, the European Commission declared that an additional €25 million assistance package will be provided to support BiH in managing the mixed movement of refugees and migrants in the country. This new EU funding will mainly address the essential needs of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants during winter, providing accommodation, food, access to healthcare and social services. The additional support will strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacity in border management, through equipment and trainings, while also contributing to the fight against smuggling and human trafficking.

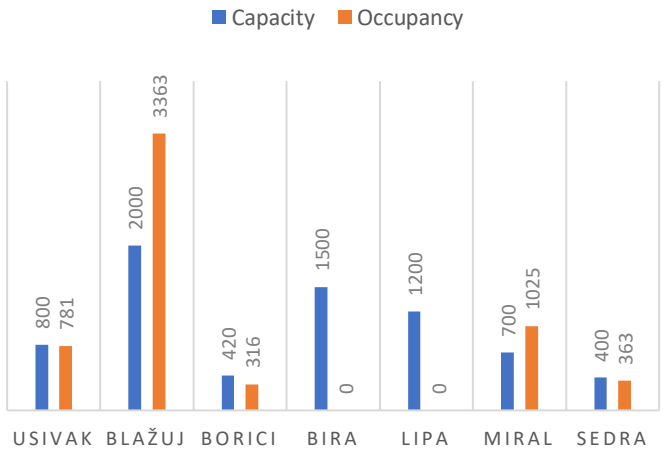
On 23 December, SFA in coordination with relevant partners including IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, SCI and CWS successfully organized the process of relocation of 33 UASC from TRC Borici to Centre for Children and Youth MFS-Emmaus (CCY) under UNHCR's protocol with MoS. The process has been facilitated through several phases, including (1) process of informing and preparing UASCs for the relocation, facilitated by legal guardians, UNICEF, SCI and CWS; (2) transport of UASCs accompanied by legal guardians, SFA and UNHCR; and (3) reception and accommodation of UASC in center Duje, including regular medical screening and documentation handover/legal steps completion in cooperation with center medical staff and CSW Doboj East. Of note is the fact that funding for this support will expire next month and, with dozens of UASC stranded in squats and forest camps, further efforts and support to the issue of safe accommodation for UASC will be needed.

On 31 December, the ban on the distribution of humanitarian aid in Bihać urban area was lifted as a conclusion of a meeting of the USC Coordination Group.

CENTER COORDINATION AND CENTER MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Key Gaps:	Key Achievements:
• Lack of accommodation capacity in USC and SA.	• 808 overnight stays were recorded for 79 individual migrants/asylum-seekers in Tuzla safe houses through CRS/PUZ.





Overview of the Reception Centres

- **TRC Ušivak** (opened in October 2018), in Hadžići Municipality, is currently a mixed profile centre planned for accommodation of vulnerable categories.
- **TRC Blažuj** (opened in December 2019), in Ilidža Municipality, is predominantly for single men.
- **TRC Borići** (opened in January 2019), in the City of Bihać, exclusively hosts families with children, UASC, and other vulnerable groups.
- **ETC Lipa** (closed on December 2020), in the City of Bihac, exclusively hosts single men.
- **TRC Miral** (opened in October 2018), in Velika Kladuša, predominantly accommodates single men and UASC.
- **TRC Sedra** (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.
- **Refugee Reception Centre Salakovac** (RRC) (in operation since 2000) near Mostar, provides accommodation to asylum-seekers and refugees
- **Asylum Centre Delijaš** (AC) (in operation since 2014), in Trnovo Municipality, exclusively accommodates individuals who have sought asylum in BiH.

CCCM meetings were regularly organized with all partner agencies including Service for Foreigners Affairs In December, in **ETC Lipa,** meetings' discussion points focused on the foreseen closure of the camp as of the BiH Council of Ministers' decision and the need to establish a viable exit plan among all partner agencies. In **TRC Borići**, some of the meeting's action points were the need to provide cultural mediators and interpreters for Farsi language given the increase number of migrants and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and the need to set-up a meeting with UASCs to share information on accommodation options in RC Duje centre. Furthermore, in **TRC Blažuj**, the WASH committee meeting was held in coordination with UNFPA, Save the Children and World Vision, where one of the main topics discussed was the identification of voluntary wardens among migrants and asylum seekers to monitor hygiene and emergency issues and to improve communication and transmission of information among all. Lastly, in TRC Sedra, IOM announced the opening of an "IT center", where computer workshops will be held with migrants and asylum seekers. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed for TRC Miral to be officially managed by the SFA with IOM as a managing partner.

Site improvements

Sarajevo Canton and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

In TRC Blažuj, the construction work in December included the following: a prayer room for Christian minority was set up and equipped with furniture; barber shop was equipped and opened; in Tent 4, a concrete 80 meters long wall was constructed, to prevent water leakage. Furthermore, 340 migrants and asylum seekers were relocated from Tent 4 to the building H10 (the former NFIs warehouse) for improved accommodation space. A refrigerator and three additional small kitchen containers were delivered for food storage. One sanitary container was winterized - electric cables were connected, and one electric heater was placed inside. The 22 accommodation containers, which arrived in October, were moved in and are now connected to electricity via the existing generators, while waiting for a more stable solution. Ongoing works included expansion of the kitchen and set-up of a protective fence around the quarantine zone and installation of 51 pillars and 60 lighting fixtures in the TRC to improve security and safety of migrants and asylum seekers. One of the gaps IOM is working on is to install sockets for charging mobile phones of migrants and asylum seekers. Other minor works included repairing and replacing sanitary inventory.

Tents dismantling, ETC Lipa

In TRC Usivak, construction work to set up a 100-meter-long fence to separate UASC zone from the other areas continued during the reporting month. Some of the key developments and finalized work in December included: expansion of the kitchen and the dining area (kitchen was also equipped with new appliances, including washing machine, electric boiler, electric cooker, etc., pending connection); electrical connection from the electric transformer station which provides electricity to all TRC (family accommodation building and the housing containers) was finalized; expansion of the laundry facility (water pressure was boosted by digging a 100 meter long canal to connect to a network of additional water source). In addition, 21 housing containers placed in „red hangar "were equipped with heaters, and two new containers were set up on a concrete base and connected to electricity (one for partner agency and one for IOM staff). Two new sanitary containers with five showers and five toilets each were delivered (they were installed, pending connection). IOM along with World Vision staff and migrants and asylum seekers contributed to several cleaning initiatives of outdoor areas organized by the local community of Hadžići.

Una-Sana Canton

In TRC Borići, During the reporting month, the COVID-19 quarantine area on the first floor, with 28 beds capacity, was temporarily moved to the third floor, in order to make space for the new arrivals from Bosanska Bojna. Therefore, IOM maintenance staff set-up additional nine bunk beds at third floor. The work on internet connection, which started during the previous month, continued and the external supplier installed LAN and connected computers and printers to the server unit. In addition, two washing machines were repaired, and a fence was installed next to the laundry room. As the issues with electricity continued causing frequent outages in the TRC during December, fuel forced heaters were set up to heat the ground floor and third floor. Lastly, a joint cleaning initiative of the park surrounding of the TRC was organized throughout the month. Migrants and asylum seekers participated together with IOM and partner agencies.

In TRC Miral, all tents were covered and reinforced on the inside with additional wax due to the winter season. The accommodation capacity in Covid-19 quarantine area was increased with additional tent having 114 beds. Some of the minor maintenance work included the repair of several beds in migrants' rooms; the repair of the protective fence in several areas of the TRC; the repair and installation of new oil radiators in housing containers and in the dining room. Furthermore, a total of 45 new oil radiators procured by IOM were installed during the reporting period throughout the TRC, while the DRC's Barber shop was set up and is currently operational. Gaps remaining include lack of hot water, and the need for increased laundry capacity, particularly at the end of the month when the number of migrants in the centre increased.

In TRC Sedra, several construction works were carried out during December: outside lights were repaired where possible and additional reflectors installed to improve lighting; the re-construction of the praying area of the TRC was finalized; and, a fence was installed at the isolation area. Canopies were installed in several places: at the place of food distribution in the isolation area, above the laundry door, on containers in UASC zone and on pediatric container to protect the migrants from rain and snow while waiting for their turn. Furthermore, IOM worked to enhance the laundry facility by installing a temporary roof near the laundry facility for migrants and asylum seekers to dry their clothes and blankets, and the work to create additional storage space started. The laundry also counts a new industrial machine and a dryer which were transported from TRC Bira to TRC Sedra. Other works related to WASH included repairs /replacements of sanitary inventory (toilet bowls, showers, etc), and an additional sanitary container for the isolation area, pending connection. One of the gaps remaining is poor electrical installations throughout the centre and the isolation area (Three major electrical boxes need to be replaced). Some rooms are not in use due to high amount of moisture and leakage from toilets, showers and corrosive pipes. Continuous leakage further causes issues with electrical installations.

ETC Lipa, continued to face issues with electrical supply, heaters and generators- some were repaired, and some replaced. Despite the work on the thermal insulation of pipes, most of the ETC's sanitary containers were not operational due to low temperature and consequent lack of water. In view of the camp's closure, IOM started dismantling accommodation tents. Only regular accommodation area remained operational until the last day, on 23 December. Beds from tents were dismantled and transported to the central warehouse Bira, while all matrasses were burnt. On the day of its closure, the agreed exit plan was executed by IOM and partners agencies, when a fire suddenly broke out and destroyed most of the tents. All IOM and partner agencies staff were immediately evacuated, and no injuries were registered. Since its closure, around 900 migrants and asylum seekers remained in the vicinity of the camp in the open.

Tuzla Canton

In Tuzla urban area, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continues to support its local partner PUZ in the management of two safe houses with capacities to host up to 50 migrants and asylum-seekers (families and vulnerable adults).

Accountability to Affected Populations

Communication with communities, participation and transparency

The Women and Girls Committee Meeting was organized, where representatives of women and girls at TRCs had the opportunity to present their views and suggestions on the key topic of improving the functionality and preservation of camp assets, with a jointly reached conclusion on the need to increase awareness of the users.

IOM encourages the centre population to play an active role in decision-making process and activities that affect them. TRCs have Community Representative Councils and regular meetings are organized by IOM with partner agencies. These serve as a platform for discussion of TRC issues, conflict prevention and resolution, dialogues between different migrant groups and between the centre population and centre management. For instance, in December, in TRC Borići, the Community representatives discussed the need to increase the number of representatives from the Afghan community as this population increased in the TRC, and about the electricity problems caused by the fire that broke out in the isolation area.

Boys Parliament are organized in all TRCs to ensure that UASC views and needs are considered and discussed. For instance, in December, in TRC Borići, the Community representatives discussed the need to increase the number of representatives from the Afghan community as this population increased in the TRC, and about the electricity problems caused by the fire that broke out in the isolation area.

IOM is also running info-desks in all TRCs, as reference points where the centre population can ask general questions and access information about available assistance and protection services within and outside of the TRCs. This is also a platform used by IOM and other partner agencies to communicate and share information and updates with the centre population. IOM is screening a video with the centres' house rules, service schedules and similar relevant information on the public TV displays in TRCs.

Feedback and complaint mechanisms - centre residents can also submit feedback and complaints, or report incidents in person at the info-desks in each TRC, or anonymously in the complaints/feedback boxes. Feedback and complaint committee meetings are regularly organized in all TRCs/ETC. Feedback and Complaint Committee were operational in all TRCs during the month of December. During the reporting month, due to the low temperatures, snow and ice, IOM staff and partner agencies together with migrants and asylum seekers from ETC Lipa conducted cleaning initiatives throughout the camp. While in TRC Sedra, Community representatives suggested to hold a special cooking day, where national communities can prepare their traditional dishes for other migrants and asylum seekers.

CRS and its partners (PUZ, Caritas BiH, Snaga Zene, Merhamet Tuzla) in Tuzla also established feedback and complaint mechanisms to ensure safe communication with CRS. For any matters, all migrants and asylum-seekers can contact CRS through in person communication, WhatsApp and e-mail. These channels have shown efficiency and are used to increase accountability, ensuring implementation of safeguarding principles and to tailor and improve response.

PROTECTION

Key Gaps:

- Lack of accommodation capacities for UASC. The majority of children who refuse accommodation in CCY are left outside without adequate protection and without access to food, shelter, NFI, health and other services.
- UASC in TRC Blažuj remain undocumented by state authorities. SFA does not conduct registrations and thus Centres for Social Welfare (CSW) cannot appoint legal guardianship for them, limiting their access to essential protection services, including their ability to apply for asylum.

Key Achievements:

- UNHCR and the BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees finalised an action plan to find durable housing solutions for the remaining recognised refugees accommodated in RRC Salakovac.
- Due to the lack of privacy in tents, as well as the feeling of insecurity that negatively affects the mental health of GBV survivors and makes them even more vulnerable, UNFPA with the support of IOM initiated the relocation of four GBV survivors in TRC Blazuj.
- In Tuzla, SFA agreed that UASC identified during the weekend can be accommodated in Safe House Wave (Church), while registration and transportation will be conducted the next working day.

Asylum and Registration

From 69,413 detected arrivals between 1 January 2018 and the end of December 2020 by BiH authorities, 64,943 (94%) formally expressed intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigner's Affairs. Of these, 2,601 (4%) formally lodged an asylum claim with the Sector for Asylum (SA). During December, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs registered 470 attestations of intention to seek asylum, which is 89 per cent of registered arrivals during the month (529). Sector for Asylum (MoS) registered 11 first instance asylum claims during the month, of which 9 were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo. In 2020, a total of 244 first instance asylum claims were registered by MoS. Overall, this is a 69 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2019 (785). The following are the top five countries of origin of applicants of first instance asylum applications in BiH in 2020: Iraq (72, 30%), Turkey (39, 16%), Afghanistan (31, 13%), Morocco (17, 7%) and Pakistan (17, 6%). Together, asylum-seekers originating from those five countries account for 73 per cent of all asylum applications made in 2020. A total of 263 asylum-seekers' cases were pending with the Sector for Asylum at the end of December. UNHCR is aware of an additional 391 individuals who wish to register their asylum claim and have been unable to do so. Currently, registration with the Sector for Asylum is prioritized for UASC from TRC Ušivak and individuals in private accommodation, leaving those awaiting registration in USC, TRC Blažuj and the state-run centers, Salakovac and Delijaš effectively without access to asylum.

Of the refugees who were provided with durable housing from RRC Salakovac, six of these refugees from Kosovo also managed to naturalize in 2020 with assistance of UNHCR and legal partner Vaša Prava BiH. During the reporting period, two refugees originally from Kosovo, received naturalization decisions. Since the changes of the BiH and entity citizenship legislation in 2013 and 2016, a total of 40 refugees have naturalized.

UNHCR and IOM AVRR teams continue conducting group information sessions in reception centres, providing information on access to asylum in BiH and voluntary return to country of origin, respectively. Joint group info sessions were conducted in TRC Borici, TRC Sedra and ETC Lipa in USC, and TRC Usivak in Sarajevo Canton. Additionally, UNHCR/VP Tuzla Outreach Team provided free legal aid to a total of 18 migrants/asylum-seekers and distributed brochures and information on the asylum procedure.

Child Protection

Key achievements

The operating of a designated zone for UASC continued in TRC Miral by SCI with UNICEF support, 24/7 child protection support to both UASC and children within families in TRCs Borici and Sedra by SCI with UNICEF support, and in TRC Usivak by World Vision with UNICEF support. A total of 948 children on the move (110 girls, 838 boys, including 696 UASC) benefited from on-site 24/7 protection support (case management, MHPSS, legal information) as well as non-formal and recreational activities, including through CFS in RRC Salakovac and TRC Usivak (in partnership with World Vision) and in TRCs Borici and Sedra (in partnership with LAN and SCI) during the month of December. A total of 379 children benefited from CFS activities in December. Additionally, 113 guardianships were assigned to UASC by Centres for Social Welfare, directly and in partnership with SCI, World Vision, and CWS, through UNICEF support in USC and SC.

According to SCI, to date, 73 UASC have been accommodated in CCY (51 from USC, four from Tuzla, and 18 from Sarajevo). SCI held a Child Protection Working Group with representatives from the Ministry of Security, Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), Centre for Social Work Tuzla, Kalesija and other humanitarian actors in order to discuss a referral pathway for UASC to CCY, and to identify urgent shelter needs when UASC are identified after working hours and during the weekend. UNHCR/BHWI covered costs related to accommodation/protection for 34 UASC in CCY.

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

651
Migrants and asylum-seekers assisted by DRC through various referrals in TRCs.

767
Migrants and asylum-seekers reported push-back incidents from Croatia to BiH to DRC Protection Teams. The most vulnerable cases were referred to medical assistance, MHPSS and accommodation/ Registration.

121
Migrants and asylum-seekers disembarked in Velecevo during December.

ASYLUM HIGHLIGHTS

11
New asylum claim registrations, 244 in total in 2020

0
Recognized refugee statuses granted in December, 1* in total in 2020

0

Trends and gaps identified

On 23 December, 33 UASC accommodated in TRC Borici were relocated to CCY in Tuzla Canton, of which a group of 10 UASC had to be re-relocated the day after to TRC Usivak, and the next day headed back to USC. A few more UASC left CCY in the following days and returned to USC as well. The majority of them were camping in front of TRC Borici, amidst cold winter conditions, as they did not agree to being re-relocated to CCY, and were not granted access to any of the TRCs in USC. While CCY can serve as an important component in the whole continuum of care needed for UASC in BiH, many UASC do not want to be relocated/referred there. Their reasons include: the location is remote and it is not on the route to Croatia; only UASC can get accommodation and they do not wish to separate from their groups; and UASC cannot go outside without the presence of legal guardian. Many of the UASC currently residing in CCY stated that they would leave the centre as soon as the weather gets better, e.g., in March.

The referral of UASC identified in Ključ, Velečevo to CCY is a challenge due to the restrictions of transportation between entity lines. During the reporting week, five UASC were waiting in Velečevo for six days waiting for accommodation in CCY. SFA in USC communicated with SFA in Tuzla to conduct registration on Monday, but UASC left the location to Sarajevo during the weekend due to the cold weather.

In December, SCI identified 94 newly arrived UASC, out of which 44 were in TRC Blažuj and 50 were in outreach locations. SCI case workers actively managed 130 active cases (32 in Borici, 39 in Miral, and 59 in Sedra). Of those, 18 are high-risk cases. Case workers reported cases of mental illness (1 in TRC Borici); drug abuse (4 proven, 6 potential in TRC Miral), accompanied by verbal and physical attacks on staff and violations of camp rules, and criminal offenses. Also, case workers reported cases of self-harm (TRC Borici 1, TRC Miral 2, TRC Sedra 1), and one case of an unaccompanied 15-year-old girl.

During the UNFPA Women and Girls centres empowerment activities in TRCs Sedra and Borići, adolescent girls state that they feel a bit unsafe to attend different activities which are organized jointly for girls and unaccompanied boys, which is the main reason they do not attend activities. Due to mentioned, UNFPA team organized more activities that are specific for adolescent girls during the month and will continue to do so.

Key recommendations

In the short-term, there is an urgent need to ensure a minimum of 600 reception capacities for UASC in TRCs, ideally in designated zones for UASC with 24/7 on-site child protection and care support. In the medium- and long-term, there is a need to ensure a whole continuum of care services, meeting the needs of different groups of UASC such as UASC below the age of 14, children at risk/child victims of violence and exploitation, including human trafficking, female UASC, LGBTQI, asylum-seekers. Care support could also include: foster care, semi-independent living units, small group homes, and safe houses.

Relevant BiH authorities need to prioritize designing a strategy for the inclusion of unaccompanied migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children into the local child protection and care systems in a non-discriminatory manner, which recognizes the need to support various vulnerabilities, and which meets international, regional and domestic standards.

Gender Based Violence

UNFPA held the GBV Working Group where updates/trends regarding GBV were discussed between agencies that participated (IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, DRC, MdM, VP). Further meetings are needed regarding the regulation and revision of GBV referral mechanisms in cases of GBV against children. To further protect and assist single female beneficiaries who had previously reported harassment by other tenants, the UNFPA Women and Girls Centre team, in collaboration with IOM at TRC Ušivak, relocated them to another accommodation unit.

Reducing stress activity with adolescent girls in TRC Usivak, UNFPA

UNFPA identified 39 GBV cases in USC and SC, out of which five cases involved UASC, six cases involved young men and the rest of the cases involved women as survivors. UNFPA psychotherapist provided psychosocial support to all identified women, while all identified adolescent boys and young men cases were referred by GBV Case Manager to relevant organizations for support, with continuous follow-up by UNFPA. Regarding GBV survivor's safety needs, eight safety plans were made, as well as four action plans created to meet survivor's needs and provide interagency support. UNFPA followed up on 128 GBV cases, and 12 cases were closed due to the inactivity of cases for a longer period of time as well as the return of survivors to their countries of origin. Following an IOM call due to the crisis incident in TRC Blažuj, GBV Case Manager

Subsidiary Protections granted in December, 31* in total granted in 2020

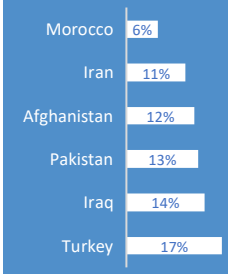
7
Rejected claims in December, 56* in total in 2020

16
Terminated procedures – suspensions in December, 546* in total in 2020 (*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed)

470
New Intentions to Seek Asylum 14,669 in total in 2020

94 %
Of arriving persons are issued Attestation on the Intention to Seek Asylum in BiH in 2020

263
Asylum claims pending decision by MoS (at the end of the month). **Top six Countries of Origin** among asylum-seekers at the end of the month



391
Persons awaiting registration of their asylum claim by MoS with assistance of UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH at the end of the month

remained with the adolescent survivor until the arrival of a guardian from the Cantonal Social Welfare Centre where further steps have been taken in accordance with the regulations to protect the survivor and provide the necessary support.

Five GBV educational sessions were held with the aim of identifying discriminatory behaviour, raising awareness on this topic, as well as reducing and preventing discriminatory behaviour. A total of 23 women, seven adolescent boys as well as a group of 15 men (TRC Blažuj) attended the trainings.

DRC GBV Specialist followed up on 32 GBV cases on a weekly basis, with four new cases recorded in December. DRC and Zene sa Une, in partnership with UNHCR, continued providing safe accommodation for GBV survivors in USC and other extremely vulnerable cases identified by partner organisations. A total of seven vulnerable individuals were supported with accommodation in the safe house.

Psychosocial Support

In TRC Ušivak, RRC Salakovac and urban areas, interventions included: 70 individual social counselling sessions, 14 family social counselling sessions, 211 social mentoring sessions, 35 individual psychological counseling, and 16 psychological mentoring sessions were provided through UNHCR/BHWI. Additionally, individual psychological counseling was provided to four migrants/asylum-seekers residing in Puž safe house by UNHCR/BHWI.

With an increased number of women in need of PSS support, UNFPA MHPSS experts supported vulnerable women and girls with a total number of 158 different PSS interventions including individual, group sessions and crises interventions. Psychosocial educational group topics were adapted to the identified needs and different age groups of women and girls. PSS and early detection of need is achieved through an innovative peer support group approach, where GBV survivors with similar or the same psychological states and challenges have the opportunity to share experiences and be supportive of each other with psychotherapists as facilitators. A total of eight women and two girls were in need for psychological support due to their state caused by reported allegations of violent push backs. All were included in MHPSS support provided by UNFPA PSS Experts. To reduce the negative traumatic effects of the earthquake that was particularly felt in TRC Sedra, the UNFPA Women and Girls Centre team increased the number of MHPSS experts in the field, while also intensifying empowerment activities in those days, to reach as many affected beneficiaries as possible. In TRC Usivak, at the UNFPA Women and Girls Centre, a peer support group was held on the topic of "Position and role of women in society." The focus was to look at the roles that beneficiaries played in their countries of origin and what has changed since they flee, with the observation of impact that the trip had on their mental health.

Durable solutions

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)

BiH is the only country in the Western Balkans region that managed to resume AVRR departures, following the COVID-19 outbreak. In December, there were 36 departures (20 to Pakistan, 10 Morocco, two to Iraq, one to Afghanistan, one to Ethiopia, one to Guinea, one to Nepal). Furthermore, 3,028 migrants were reached by IOM AVRR outreach staff in BiH (1,142 in centres and 1,886 otside centres). IOM's AVRR outreach team was present in all TRCs, even during the lockdown, promoting migrants' rights and informed decision making by providing migrant families and individuals interested in voluntarily returning to their country of origin with information and counselling relevant to their decision. Awareness raising efforts and information dissemination increased and AVRR is sharing information related to COVID-19, in accordance with WHO developed guidelines. Information also include data on mobility restrictions and can be accessed on web page developed for AVRR information campaign.

1,461
Legal counselling sessions by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH in December

CHILD PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

472
Unaccompanied or Separated Children in BiH at the end of the month

13 %
of UASC are 15 years of age or younger

1,309
Protection assistances to UASC provided by UNHCR/BHWI in December

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

516
Number of PSS interventions provided by UNHCR/BHWI in December 2020

201
MHPSS consultations in TRCs provided by DRC in December to a total of 175 direct beneficiaries

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Key Gaps:	Key Achievements:
• Lack of adequate NFIs in TRCs and outside for outreach activities. This includes warm winter jackets, shoes, gloves, hats, and clothes	• 853 children (including UASC) were provided with winter clothes and shoes in USC and SC through UNICEF • Thanks to several donations that occurred during the reporting month, additional NFIs were distributed due to low temperatures.

The deteriorating weather conditions in BiH brought even more hardship to people on the move currently staying outside reception centres in USC, therefore UNHCR donated winter NFIs including clothing, boots and sleeping bags to the Red Cross of USC for urgent distribution to the most vulnerable migrants and asylum-seekers.

Installation of donated PCs in TRCs in USC, UNHCR/IOM

In USC, UNHCR donated ten sets of PCs to IOM to ensure that TRC Sedra and TRC Borici youth corners are equipped for communication and learning opportunities, especially for children attending online classes due to COVID-19 measures, but also for other centre dwellers wishing to further their education through platforms like Coursera.

Through the Centres for Women and Girls and Boys and Young Men Centres, UNFPA continues to distribute modern contraceptives and hygienic products regularly and as per identified needs. In December, UNFPA distributed 417 dignity kits including contraceptives (condoms) and pregnancy tests. In addition, 51 dignity kits and 109 condoms were distributed through Centres for Boys and Young men.

Distribution of backpacks and pencil cases for children attending school from TRC Sedra, IPSIA/SCI

DRC Outreach Protection Teams provided energy saving food supplies and emergency non-food items for the most vulnerable migrants and asylum-seekers (including families, UASC and single adult males) identified in the pushback areas or disembarkation points in USC, as well as those accommodated in inadequate accommodation outside of TRCs throughout BiH. In total, 5,021 assistances were provided through the distribution of emergency food and non-food items.

IOM provides NFIs for newly arriving migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in all TRCs/ETC. An NFI distribution system is in place and operational with set schedules displaying distribution times. IOM provides NFI welcome kits, after which individual NFIs refills are provided. NFIs include items such as, clothing, footwear, hygiene products, clean bed sheets and linen upon arrival and for those undertaking scabies treatment, or other medical cases as per need. NFIs also include packages to hospitalized migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers which contains pyjamas, slippers, a towel and other items necessary for hospital stays; and specially prepared baby packages, and other items according to their needs. Also, all new arrivals who are in the pre-registration waiting to be screened are provided with hygiene packages (including soap, shampoo, shower gel, toilet paper, tissues) as well as clothes if needed. In December, due to the expected closure of ETC Lipa, relocation of NFI to the central warehouse in Bihac started.

During the reporting month, given the severe weather conditions, NFI distributions focused on winter items including blankets, raincoats and shoes. A total of 79,124 individual items were distributed to 6,069 persons. During December, donations in NFIs were provided as follow: in TRC Usivak PPE, blankets, packages of baby diapers by A drop in the Ocean Organization; 60 winter packages for children by "International school for German language" employees; 183 mixed (food and hygiene) packages from private citizens; 420 hygiene packages by Caritas; 118 holiday packages for children by local community members; three packages of second-hand winter clothes by Baptist Church. In TRC Blazuj, 68 second-hand mattresses and 185 blankets by ADRA; second-hand clothes and food by Narod I Pravda Centre and by local citizens from Brcko city; two large thermo bottles for the medical room and for the quarantine area by EUROFOR representatives, 100 bibles in both English and Urdu language by World Vision; IT equipment (two desktop computers, two monitors, one printer) by private citizens. In ETC Lipa, jackets, pants, hats, long sleeve shirts, socks and underpants (30 of each) by Red Cross Bihac. In TRC Borici, thermal underwear, shoes, diapers by IPSIA and 16 pack of powdered milk by Red Cross Bihac.

100 food packages, 100 pairs of shoes and approximately 300 pieces of other various clothing (underwear, socks, jackets, hats, trousers, etc) were distributed through Compass 071.

300 NFI including sleeping bags, backpacks, socks and underwear were distributed in Tuzla Canton Area through CRS/Caritas BiH.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Key Gaps:

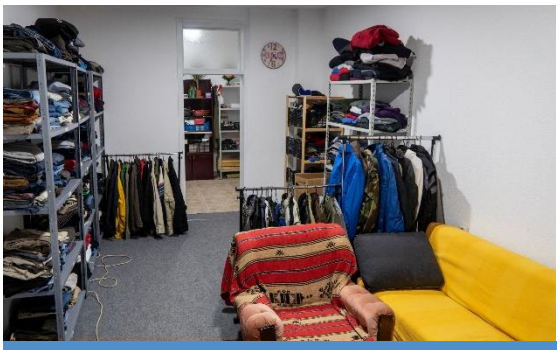
- Due to low temperatures, water pipes in sanitary containers froze and were not operational in ETC Lipa.

Key Achievements:

- 220 hot showers were provided, and about 2,000 kg of clothing items were washed through the newly opened Compass 071.
- 2,109 loads of laundry were cleaned in Bihac and 302 loads of laundry were cleaned in Tuzla (one load is equivalent to three persons) through CRS/Caritas BIH.
- One new industrial machine and one dryer transported to TRC Sedra are now operational.
- Two new sanitary containers in TRC Usivak with five showers and five toilets each.
- One sanitary container winterized in TRC Blazuj.

Site Development Highlights

Compass 071 began its operation in Sarajevo at the beginning of December, operating five days per week to provide 10 hot showers a day and 10 laundry machines for migrants and asylum-seekers to use.



Clean laundry provided in Sarajevo, Compass 071

CRS continues to support Caritas BiH in managing laundry services located in Bira, USC. Due to the closure of TRC Bira, CRS established a mobile laundry service that is located in the TRC premises and supports ETC Lipa and TRC Borici. As of late December 2020, support to Lipa was paused. Laundry service is available in Tuzla to all migrants and refuges.

In order to maintain WASH services, according to the minimum SPHERE standards, IOM dedicates significant efforts to maintenance and repair, particularly of WASH containers and infrastructure, as damages occur frequently in all TRCs. Regular repairs and replacements include sink faucets, toilet tanks and pipes, shower faucets, flushers, water taps. Five TRCs have functional laundry systems for the washing of TRC bedding/sheets and the centre population's personal belongings. During the reporting month, one new industrial machine and one dryer were transported from TRC Bira to TRC Sedra and are currently operational. Furthermore, a second sanitary container for the isolation area (symptomatic) was delivered to the TRC. In TRC Usivak, two new sanitary containers with five showers and five toilets each were delivered during the month of December.

Sanitary contrainers delivery, TRC Usivak

TRC Borići has 20 toilets and 20 showers inside the building and 21 toilets and 13 showers outside the building (in sanitary containers), with facilities separated by sex. Hot water and drinking water are available in the centre. Six washing machines and six dryers are installed and operational.
TRC Miral has 64 toilets and 34 showers. Out of which 5 toilets and 5 showers are separated only for UASC. Drinking water is available in the centre.

In ETC Lipa, there are 102 toilets, 74 showers and 24 concrete sinks, for personal hygiene and access to drinking water.

TRC Sedra has 49 toilets and 62 private showers for 163 people. The remaining TRC population has access to shared toilets and showers, separated by sex. Drinking water is available in the centre. TRC population contributes to laundry operations on a voluntary basis.

TRC Ušivak has 47 toilets and 36 showers and facilities are separated by sex. Hot water and drinking water are available at the centre.

4,319 persons assisted with laundry

383 toilets available in TRCs/ETC

336 showers available in TRCs/ETC

TRC Blažuj has 80 toilets and 97 showers. Hot water and drinking water are available. During the reporting month, one sanitary container was winterized: electric cables were connected, and one electric heater was placed inside.

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.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Key Gaps:	Key Achievements:
• Outdoor community kitchen in TRC Borići is currently out of function.	• In association with an activist Mr. Salam Aldeen, IPSIA BIH distributed food packages for every family in TRCs Sedra and Borici. In ETC Lipa, fresh oranges were provided to migrants and asylum-seekers, in addition to the regular menu. • 2,504 meals were provided in Tuzla, out of which 2,031 meals were provided to safe house residents and 473 food parcels were distributed to unaccommodated individuals in Tuzla through CRS. • Changes to the menu in TRC Borići and TRC Sedra were conducted, based on feedback received by migrants and asylum-seekers.

Meal distributions in centres

IOM and partners (Red Cross in USC/Salakovac; and Pomozi.ba in SC) continued to support the provision of three meals and two fruit snacks per day. Meals are prepared in line with international standards that guarantee sufficient nutritional calorie intake. In December, IOM and partners provided a total of 399,785, out of which 189,541 meals were distributed in USC, 206,818 in Sarajevo Canton and 3,426 in RRC Salakovac. Furthermore, in Tuzla 2,504 meals were provided to Safe house residents (two hot meals and a breakfast per day).

Distribution of oranges for dwellers in ETC Lipa, IPSIA

Improvements based on community feedback

Through CRS, food parcels are regularly adjusted based on satisfaction survey findings. Migrants and asylum-seekers have expressed satisfaction with dry fruits (dates, etc.) and noodle soup.

Food distribution, ETC Lipa

IOM continued to measure satisfaction with meals, by conducting surveys daily, in terms of quality and quantity offered. Thereby, IOM is continuously making amendments to respond to migrants and asylum seekers requests. During the reporting month, changes to the menu were conducted in TRC Borići and TRC Sedra, based on feedback received by migrants and asylum-seekers'.

Persons with special dietary requirements

In all TRCs, IOM provides specialized food to migrants and asylum-seekers in need of specific dietary requirement upon a doctor's recommendation/medical prescription and to those who are vegetarians, such as gluten-free, diabetes diet, etc, as well as food without beef to the Hindu population, following their request.

Infant and Young Child Feeding

UNICEF in partnerships with Fenix and World Vision continued providing individual support to mothers, pregnant women and children, and in cooperation with IOM continued distributing NFI and FI to mothers and children. In addition to baby milk formula, IOM provided babies below 24 months with special complementary food which is prepared by Red Cross in line with UNICEF's guidelines on child feeding, these usually consist of salty and sweet purees which are being made for babies in TRC Sedra, Borići, Usivak and Salakovac. During October, 1,290 complementary meals were distributed for 284 babies and 290 baby formulas were distributed for 28 babies.

During the month MBC staff provided daily counselling to mothers and pregnant women on breastfeeding, young child feeding, diverse diet, and regular health check-ups. Mothers are assisted every day with baby bathing and visits to the pediatrician. Continuous workshops have been held on the topics of postpartum depression and creative workshops with children and moms with the aim to nurture children's imagination, the art of improvisation and independent design of practical ideas. In the month of December, 81 parents, 115 children under five, and six pregnant women benefitted from MBC services. More than 2,500 individual services were provided to mothers and children, including the distribution of more than 2,000 FIs and more than 5,000 NFIs distributed through MBCs in USC and SC.

399,785 Meals distributed by IOM and partners	Community kitchens are operational in all six TRC/ETC	**290** Portions of baby formula distributed for **28** babies

HEALTH

Key Gaps:	Key Achievements:
• On 29 December, an earthquake (6.3 on the richter scale) hit the area of Sisak-Moslavina County in Croatia. The same earthquake was also recorded in USC and significantly damaged the Bihać Hospital, including the COVID-19 ward, which now represents an additional burden for the already weakened health system in the USC. • Increased number of UASC in TRC Miral who are consuming heavy psychoactive substances. Of the 57 currently accommodated UASC, there are about 10 cases of psychoactive substance abuse, and four of them are at high-risk due to compromising physical and emotional issues. • There are no preventive conditions to prevent the outbreak of COVID-19 in out-of-site locations. In addition to non-existent WASH facilities and lack of hygiene items, it is impossible to keep social distance. Medical services are not available on a regular or sufficient basis for screening and isolating potential suspect cases. • Four cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in TRCs. • Only urgent cases were referred to SHC in BiH due to COVID–19 preventive measures and restrictions. Furthermore, for any surgical intervention, patients are obliged to provide a negative COVID–19 test, which results in delaying assistance.	• In cooperation with legal guardians, a meeting took place with SCI case workers to determine further steps regarding UASC who are consuming heavy psychoactive substances in TRC Miral; relocation of four children to CCY was suggested, where professional and expert assistance could be provided. • Educational workshop "Alcohol and Drug abuse prevention among UASC" was organized together with UNFPA, UNICEF, SCI, DRC and MdM in TRC Miral. • Two trainings were held on COVID-19 related Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for medical and non-medical personnel in USC and SC.

General

In coordination with IOM AVRR office, DRC Protection and Medical Teams assisted in organizing medical examinations for migrants/asylum-seekers who expressed an intention to voluntarily return to their country of origin. Additionally, all violent pushback cases reported to or observed by DRC and PHC medical teams were provided with first aid and other health care services, based on their needs and conditions. First aid was provided by medical teams in TRCs/ETC, Red Cross Teams and DRC medical officer in outreach.

COVID-19

During December, 2,284 entry screenings for COVID-19 symptoms were performed in TRC/RRC/ETCs. At the end of the month, there were 91 migrants/asylum-seekers accommodated in preventive isolation in USC TRCs/ETC and 15 cases exhibiting symptoms isolated is symptomatic isolation, six in TRC Miral and nine in TRC Blazuj. 24 migrants/asylum-seekers were tested for COVID–19. With the closure of ETC Lipa, capacities for preventive and symptomatic isolation in TRCs in BiH decreased. By the end of December, a total of 123 beds in TRCs in USC were available for preventive isolation and a total of 202 beds for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.
The two trainings on SOPs focused on common signs and symptoms of COVID-19, adequate use of PPE, referral steps of COVID-19 and other contagious disease cases, aspects related to microbiological diagnostics regarding COVID-19, infection prevention and control, implementation of physical distancing, contact tracing, occupational health & safety and SOPs developed and put in place for the pandemic. Additional support was provided through the provision of specialized medical equipment for the Public Health Institute of USC. Educating migrants and asylum-seekers on the topic of COVID-19 was conducted through the implementation of 20 workshops in UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centres (total of 231 participations), with additional practical advising taking place outside the centres (500 participations). In order to promote the adoption of good living space hygiene habits, and practically contribute to the cleanliness of accommodation units, UNFPA disinfected 81 accommodation containers in TRC Usivak with the active participation of UASC.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare

Within seven temporary medical units in reception centres in USC, SC and Hercegovina-Neretva Canton (Borici, Sedra, Miral, Lipa, Usivak, Blazuj and Salakovac), a total of 5,412 examinations were performed. In the medical units, there were 1,850 direct medical interventions performed by Primary Health Centre medical teams in coordination with DRC. In addition, 2,344 migrants/asylum-seekers were medically attended directly by DRC staff. The largest number of examinations/interventions were performed in TRCs Blazuj 1,445 and Miral 1,318. DRC implementing partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) provided assistance/medical escorts to 279 patients through 310 medical accompaniments to primary and secondary care facilities in USC, SC and HNC. DRC Medical Assistant in Tuzla coordinated with other partners on the ground and followed up on medical cases, regularly visited key spots and shelters and completed 29 direct medical interventions. In addition, two individuals were referred to SHC.

The outreach medical officer in USC performed 150 interventions. Most dominant conditions observed in USC outreach were flu-like symptoms, hypothermia, frostbites, and injuries of the musculoskeletal system mostly caused by some external force (cuts, stab wounds, abrasions, commotions). A high number of migrants/asylum-seekers were struggling with skin diseases, the most dominant is scabies due to poor hygiene conditions, lack of sanitary facilities, access to clean water and regular medical services. In Bihac urban areas, most problems are blisters, fever, scabies, and infected wounds. DRC has established an Emergency Response Team which is present at Lipa site two times a day (morning and afternoon hours) consisting of a protection officer, translator, medical officer and medical assistant, who are there to identify vulnerable cases in need of urgent medical aid, as well as those with chronic or acute medical conditions, which are not urgent but are in need of a specialist's examination.
Six Red Cross Mobile Teams in partnership with DRC continued implementing outreach activities, primarily in enhancing provision of

first aid and strengthening referral process towards public health institutions. Red Cross Outreach Teams, working in partnership with DRC, assisted 1,651 individuals through 1,931 first aid assistances and 591 PSS first aid consultations.

Paediatric Healthcare

Key achievements

Medical pre-school examinations for newly arrived children enrolling in school were completed for 57 children in TRC Sedra. Final systematic examinations, after the received analyses, were performed for 22 children, of which 12 children received a medical certificate for school entry, while the rest were prescribed therapy due to certain health problems.

In cooperation with MdM, UNFPA and SCI, the UNICEF/DRC pediatric team took part in the implementation of an educational lecture and workshop initiated by UNICEF on the "Prevention of alcohol and drug abuse" in UASC zones of TRCs in USC; one such event was held at TRC Miral. The UNICEF/DRC paediatric team looked at the dysregulation of homeostasis and physiological processes in the body, as well as the consequences on the organ systems. UNFPA took its part with the topic “Adolescents, alcohol abuse and sexual risk behaviour.” The same workshop is also planned to be implemented jointly in all TRCs in USC, with the common goal to raise awareness on the harm caused by consuming alcohol and drugs.

A total of 279 children received various health services, including paediatric check-ups, counselling sessions on personal hygiene, dental services and ophthalmological services. Additionally, 245 parents from TRC Borići and Sedra have been counselled on the importance of immunization.

Gaps and Obstacles

The number of children falling sick and those infected with lice in both family TRCs increased, and the UNICEF/DRC paediatric team is constantly cooperating with paediatricians. Cases with specific diagnoses are monitored regularly by paediatricians, and the implementation of therapy is monitored by the UNICEF/DRC team. Currently, the biggest problem is caused by cold weather, as well as inadequate conditions in reception centers, so efforts are being made to prevent the development of further diseases.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

UNFPA gynaecologists in SC and USC supported 108 women and girls in need through the provision of SRH services. It was noticed that most women prefer individual sessions while taking a consultation with the gynaecologist, during which 27 women were recommended for the further treatment. With the support of IOM and in cooperation with the local health care centre, UNFPA organized gynaecological examinations for 27 women. In addition, UNFPA ensured provision of SRH services to four highly sensitive cases including life-threatening situations.

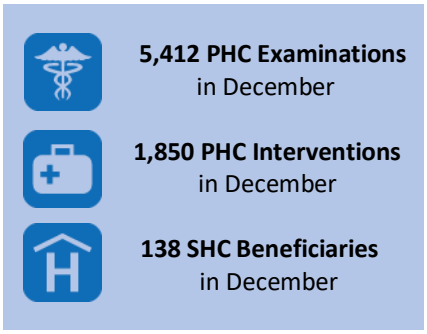
UNFPA urologists held 15 SRH sessions, with 133 participants recorded (70 UASC and 64 young men). After the sessions, 17 participants (eight UASC & nine young men) took individual consultations, after which 16 were recommended for further medical treatment.

A total of 11 pregnant women were followed up by DRC. Required reproductive health care services were regularly delivered to female population in USC, SC and HNC.

Mental Healthcare

UNICEF in partnership with MdM continued to provide MHPSS for UASC and children in families in TRCs in USC. UNICEF/MdM MHPSS conducted individual and group psychosocial sessions with UASC and children within families. UNICEF/MdM MHPSS team provided services to 104 children in three TRCs in USC. A total of 83 individual counselling sessions were held in TRCs Sedra, Borići, and Miral. The most common symptoms identified by MdM psychologists during the individual sessions were anxiety and excessive worrying related mainly to being unable to cross the border and being forced to stay in BiH during the winter. MdM psychologists have treated a range of issues, including self-harm, aggressive behavior and a feeling of uncertainty about the future, helping children to take control over their thoughts and behavior.

In TRCs Sedra, Miral and Borici, 36 psychosocial and empowerment group sessions were held with a total of 81 participations. The focus of psychosocial/empowerment group sessions was on enhancing mental dexterity, and group activities aimed to enhance children’s mental health and well-being. Psychologists worked on developing children’s capacity to better recognize and understand their emotions, with relaxation techniques to reduce stress and strengthen healthy coping mechanisms in general. UNICEF/MdM psychologists focus on providing equal opportunity to all children in this TRC and encouraged teenage girls to be involved in the activities meant specifically for girls, so group sessions are being continuously held for them.



DRC provided 11 MHPSS interventions in December. A DRC contracted neuropsychiatrist completed 108 examinations in TRCs. Registered neuropsychiatric cases were relocated from ETC Lipa to TRC Miral where the harm reduction program will continue. DRC implementing partner MdM continued implementing MHPSS activities for the adult male population. MdM assisted 202 new direct migrants/asylum-seekers and 241 mental health consultations were conducted. In addition, 99 group empowerment sessions were conducted in seven TRCs for 728 participants.

EDUCATION AND LEISURE

Key Gaps:	Key Achievements:
• None reported.	• UNICEF/MdM initiated the idea of establishing a "Little Free Library" in all TRCs in USC. • 62 safe house residents attended occupational workshops through CRS/SNAGA ZENE. • On the occasion of the International Day of Human Solidarity, the UNFPA Boys and Young Men Center together with adolescents accommodated in TRC Usivak premiered the theatre play "We are humans" through which the messages of human equality and solidarity was conveyed. • UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centres, as well as Women and Girls Centres in SC and USC, together with migrants and asylum-seekers organized Christmas and New Year's celebrations through music and dance. A total of 14 workshops were held and 90 young men and 32 adolescents participated.

Educational Activities

UNICEF/SCI facilitates enrolment of children into primary schools in Bihać and Cazin in cooperation with the Ministry of Education USC, with 166 children attending formal education during the month of December, out of which 59 are attending regular classes and others are in preparatory classes. Non-formal education activities were held on a daily basis in TRCs Borići, Sedra, Ušivak and Salakovac, and on weekends in TRC Miral, focusing on language learning, literacy, numeracy, creative and recreational workshops. A total of 204 children were reached during December through the Akelius Digital Language Course in all TRCs in BiH. The majority of UASC accommodated in TRC Miral have never had the opportunity to access education and are illiterate and do not know basic math. By implementing non-formal education activities there, UNICEF and SCI ensured access to basic education for these children; 35 UASC regularly attending education activities.

Child attending "My School" in RRC Salakovac, UNHCR/BHWI

The idea of the "Little Free Library" is to cultivate a love for books and reading. The "Little Free Library" is providing educational, recreational, and cultural resources for children and will include a collection of picture books, dictionaries, and stories. The mini library is now being frequented by children with the objective of inspiring passion for reading and cultivating reading habits.

Theater play organized with adolescents in Boys and Young Men Centre in TRC Usivak, UNFPA

UNFPA continued to manage Center for Women and Girls in SC, assisting vulnerable women and girls and GBV survivors to rehabilitate and strengthen resilience through empowerment programs and life-skills education. A total number of 239 participations of women and girls were recorded through the provision of various educational, awareness-raising and recreational empowerment sessions adapted to the expressed need of women and girls engaged. The UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centre team held educational workshops at TRCs in SC on the inadmissibility and dangers of using pyrotechnics, discouraging migrants and asylum-seekers from using them during the holidays. The UNFPA team at TRC Blažuj made an active contribution to the training of beneficiaries in the field of first aid realized by Red Cross, where through its presentation of the important topic "Wilderness dangers" providing practical instructions and advice on personal safety.

Hairdressing Initiative preparations in TRC Sedra, UNHCR/DRC

"My School" in RRC Salakovac through UNHCR/BHWI hosts classes for children and adults. The first group included two children from Pakistan who are learning the alphabet. They talked about the upcoming Christmas holiday, and the way in which Christmas cards are written, and made a decorative wreath of paper that children will use to decorate their room. The second group is attended by two married couples from Pakistan and Afghanistan who are learning the local language. Additionally, nine asylum-seekers and persons granted subsidiary protection from private accommodation attended intensive Bosnian language course through UNHCR/BHWI.

Occupational Activities

The aim of the hairdresser initiative is to strengthen community engagement in the TRCs. Construction work and refurbishment of the hairdresser facilities in TRC Sedra and TRC Miral were finished, and the openings took place on 10 December in TRC Sedra and on 24 December in TRC Miral through UNHCR/DRC. A training for four instructors/facilitators was held on 4 December in TRC Usivak. The CBP Team, with the support of DRC colleagues from SC, held the training on methodology, COVID-19 regulations and requirements, and DRC Code of Conduct. A total of 219 migrants/asylum-seekers were provided with hairdressing services including: 138 men, six women and 75 children and UASC, in four TRCs.

TOMBOLA in TRC Sedra, IPSIA

As part of occupational and recreational activities in TRC Ušivak, UNHCR/BHWI organizes workshops with sewing, knitting, jewellery making and make-up; a total of 54 individuals participated in these workshops. Additionally, 12 UASC attended sewing workshops in TRC Usivak.

Women sewing workshop, TRC Usivak

Recreational Activities

On 17-18 December, IPSIA BIH organised TOMBOLA for migrants/asylum-seekers in TRC Sedra where they had the opportunity to win prizes and enjoy each other's company. Through UNHCR/BHWI, 14 UASC participated in sports-recreational activities in TRC Usivak (football and volleyball).

CRS and Snaga Zene continue to organize thematic workshops for residents in the Safe house in Tula, themes about stress as well as expressing and coping with emotions have been held, which are received positively by dwellers. Safe house staff collect donations of books and social games for migrants and asylum-seekers to use in their free time.

In ETC Lipa, traditional cuisine cooking competitions and movie nights were held regularly. The National Cuisine Day was also organized in TRC Borići, where the Afghan community prepared traditional national dishes for migrants and asylum-seekers.

All TRCs/ETC celebrated the International Migrants Day on 18 December together with migrants and asylum-seekers and all partner agencies.

In TRC Usivak, with the purpose to establish a sewing space in the coming months, IOM provided sewing training to two female migrants and asylum-seekers.

- 342 children participated in non-formal education activities in USC, SC, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, with 211 non-formal educational activities organized.
- 204 children and 77 parents were reached with English classes, using blended learning through Akelius Digital Language Course.

IOM organized transportation for children and their families from TRC Sedra with the purpose of watching plays organized and performed for them by "Udruzenje 27" organization in Cazin and of attending trainings in the school gym of Ostrozac, together with children from the host community.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Key Gaps:	Key Achievements:
• None reported.	• UNDSS with support of UNHCR and UNFPA organized a security orientation briefing for new personnel of UN SMS organizations. • Reinforced protective fences to reduce unauthorized entries in all TRC/ETCs.

General Security

UNDSS Team was in USC visited all TRCs/ERC and met with relevant police officials. UNDSS also was in Tuzla and met with relevant police officials and NGOs who are assisting migrants and asylum-seekers.

IOM and Security staff are present 24/7 at all TRCs/ETC, working to prevent and respond to safety and security risks and incidents. Inspections and internal investigations of thefts and misconduct of the centres' population are regularly carried out and video-surveillance or other distant monitoring mechanisms are in place in TRC Bira, Borići, and Miral. For each center, IOM's Security Unit appoints a staff member to serve as Security Assistant. Security Assistants oversee the implementation of the Minimal Operating Security Standards and of coordinating all the security procedures.

IOM continuously works on improving the security and safety measures in all TRCs by filling the gaps and recommendations. In December, the fence was reinforced almost daily in all TRCs to prevent unauthorized entries, and persons from absconding from the isolation areas.

TRC incidents

In December, the fence was reinforced almost daily in all TRCs to prevent unauthorized entries, and persons from absconding from the isolation areas. Unauthorized entrances of several UASCs previously relocated to CCY in Duje have increased in TRC Borici. The security guards were instructed to increase alertness and control to prevent unauthorized entrances. A fire broke out in the isolation area of TRC Borici, which was immediately extinguished by IOM staff and security guards, and no property damage or injuries occurred.

Some of the incidents specifically in TRC Miral, are caused by migrants who are using drugs and alcohol. All cases were referred to DRC for medical treatment and reported to SFA.

Lack of sufficient water in sanitary containers, and electricity supply outages, caused frequent non-violent protest by migrants and asylum-seekers of ETC Lipa. In TRC Sedra, UASC gathered with the intention to protest on their accommodation space, as they would like to be accommodated inside the building and not in the containers outside. On both occasions, IOM and partners were able to calm migrants and asylum-seekers, explaining the reason of the present options. During the first week of December, two additional security assistants were assigned to ETC Lipa with the aim to have them present 24 hours.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

IOM has on-call mobile teams available 24/7 for assistance and transportation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers providing various types of transports. These include transportation for medical cases to hospitals, for children going to school, for vulnerable and injured persons to centers identified by outreach teams, for asylum-seekers going to their asylum interviews and transfers at the request of the SFA. Red Cross resumed the principal responsibility for the provision of transportation in USC, however IOM continued to provide transportation if/when needed.

In December there were: 139 to medical facilities, 35 to SFA, 49 for education purposes, 76 outreach and 108 others (which also includes transports between TRCs).

407 transports were carried out for **1,434** persons

3W																				
LOCATION																				
	Bosnia and Herzegovina without Una-Sana Canton									Una-Sana Canton									TOTALS	
	RRC Salakovac	AC Delijaš	TRC Ušivak	TRC Blažuj	Imm. Ctr.	Awaiting asylum in private accommodation	Outreach observed average # of people in SC	Outreach observed average # of people in TC	Outreach observed average # of people Other locations	TRC Miral	TRC Borići	TRC Sedra	TRC Bira	ETC Lipa	Žene sa Une SH	Awaiting asylum in private accommodation	Outreach observed average # of people in USC	# of people outside in USC according to USC Police	Total in BIH Accommodated	Total in BIH Estimated
KEY POPULATION # AND 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 fluctuate daily and the below is a snapshot at the end of the month)*																				
Total Number	**11**	**31**	**781**	**3363**	**54**	**89**	**217**	**199**	**36**	**1025**	**316**	**363**	**0**	**793**	**9**	**9**	**691**	**1500**	6,051	**8,000 – 8,800**
# of males	7	17	610	3363	50	52	-	-	-	1025	172	215			8	8	-	-	5,527	
# of females	4	14	171		4	37	-	-	-		144	148			1	1	-	-	524	
# single adult men		1	62	3294		27	-	-	-	973	4	1			6	3	-	-	4,371	
# of families	3	10	135	0		17	-	-	-		85	88			1	2	-	-	341	
# of children in families	5	10	196	0	0	35	-	-	-		112	129			2	2	-	-	491	
# of UASCs	0	0	265	69	0	0	-	-	-	52	33	53		0	0	0	-	-	472	
# of asylum-seekers	0	5	21	7	3	78	-	30	-	3	14	18			4	7	0	-	190	
# of persons awaiting asylum registration	11	26	117	80	0	11	-	59	-	13	29	37		1	3	2	2	-	391	
WHO DOES WHAT AND WHERE (3W)																				
Shelter	MHRR / MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	MoS, SFA	-	-	Puž		SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	ŽsU/DRC/ UNHCR	-				
Centre Management	MHRR / MoS/ AS	MoS/ AS	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	MoS, SFA	-	-	-		SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	SFA, IOM	ZsU	-				
Protection	UNHCR/ BHWI /VP, UNICEF/ WV, CSW	MoS/ AS, UNHCR/ BHWI / VP, CSW	UNHCR/VP DRC, UNICEF/ WV, MdM IOM, UNFPA	UNHCR/VP DRC, UNICEF/ WV, MdM IOM, UNFPA, Save the Children	UNHCR/ BHWI/ VP, CSW	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI, DRC	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI, DRC	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI, DRC	UNHCR/VP, DRC, UNICEF/ /StC, IOM, CSW, UNFPA	UNHCR/VP, DRC, UNICEF/ /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFPA/MdM	UNHCR/VP, DRC, UNICEF/ /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFPA/MdM	UNHCR/VP, DRC, UNICEF/ /StC/ NGO LAN, IOM, CSW, UNFPA/MdM	UNHCR, DRC, StC IOM ,CSW, UNFPA/MDM	ŽsU, DRC/ VP/U NHCR	UNHCR/ VP/ BHWI	**DRC, UNICEF/SCI**			
Health	MoS/ AS, UNHCR, DZ, CH, DRC, UNICEF	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR, DZ, CH, DRC	UNICEF, DRC, DZ, CH, UNFPA	DRC, RC, DZ, CH	SFA, DZ	-	DRC, RC	DRC, RC	DRC, RC	DRC, DZ, CH, JRS, MdM	DRC, JRS, MdM, UNICEF, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, MdM, UNICEF, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, MdM, UNICEF, DZ, CH	DRC, JRS, MdM, DZ, CH	DRC, DZ, CH	-	**DRC, RC**			
Non-food items	IOM, RC, UNHCR/ BHWI, UNICEF, WV	MOS/ AS/ UNHCR/ BHWI, Caritas	IOM, Pomozi.ba UNHCR/BHWI, UNICEF/ WV, UNFPA	IOM, Pomozi.ba UNICEF/ WV, RC, DRC	MoS/SFA	-	DRC	DRC	DRC	CoBRC, IOM, DRC, UNICEF	CoBRC, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF/StC/ Fenix	IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF/StC/ Fenix	CoBRC, IOM, UNICEF/StC/ , CSW, UNFPA, DRC	IOM, DRC, RC	ŽsU	-	**DRC, RC**			
WASH	MHRR MOS, UNHCR/ BHWI, UNICEF, WV	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	IOM	IOM	MoS/SFA	Caritas	Pomozi.ba			IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM, Caritas	IOM, DRC	ŽsU	-				
Security/Safety	MHRR / UNHCR	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/SFA	-	N/A			MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/ SFA	MoS/SFA, IOM	ŽsU	-				
Transport/ Logistics	MHRR UNHCR/ BHWI, IOM	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR/ BHWI, IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	-	-	-		IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	IOM	ŽsU, IOM	-				

Administrative/ Legal	MHRR / MoS/ SFA/ AS, UNHCR/VP	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR/VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHCR/VP	MoS/ SFA, IOM, UNHCR/VP	MoS/SFA, UNHCR/VP	VP	-	-		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, IOM, UNHCR/VP	ŽsU, VP	VP			
Education	UNHCR/ BHWI, UNICEF/ WV	MoS/ AS/ UNHCR/ BHWI	UNICEF, WV	WV	-	-	-	-		-	UNICEF/ StC/NGO LAN, MoE, IOM	UNICEF/ StC/NGO LAN, MoE, IOM, IPSIA	UNICEF/ StC/NGO LAN, MoE, IOM, CWS, IPSIA		UNICEF/ StC/ MoE, IOM	-			
Food and nutrition	RC, IOM, UNICEF/ WV, UNHCR/ BHWI, Caritas	MoS/SA/ UNHCR, Caritas	Pomozi.ba, IOM UNICEF/WV	Pomozi.ba, IOM	MoS/SFA	-	Caritas, DRC		DRC	IOM/ CRC	IOM/ CoBRC, UNICEF/ Fenix/ StC	IOM/CRC, UNICEF/ Fenix/ StC	IOM/ CoBRC UNICEF/ /StC	IOM/CoBRC	ŽsU	-	**DRC, RC**		

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, Instituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione Acli / Emmaus, International Forum of Solidarity-Emmaus / IOM, International Organization for Migration / JRS, Jesuit Refugee Services / MHRR, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees / MoE, Ministry of Education / MoS, Ministry of Security / MdM, Médecins du Monde / 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*

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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 AVRR 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

UNHCR prepares these monthly updates on behalf of the inter-agency response in BiH. They are published on the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina website. Information on the actions of institutions/organizations/individuals are collected on voluntary basis. The asylum-seeker and migration statistics presented in this document are provided by the authorities of BiH and partner agencies. The UN in BiH is not responsible for the accuracy of information provided by non-UN sources.