

**5,751**  
Migrants present at  
Transit Centers (TRCs)

**8,251**  
Migrants in BiH

**5**  
TRCs fully operational



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



130%

ASSISTED: 26,000

TARGETED: 20,000

### HIGHLIGHTS

On 23 December, the Emergency Tent Camp (ETC) Lipa (USC) was officially closed since it was not suitable for winter. The same day, a fire destroyed part of the camp, fortunately not causing victims. IOM and partners on the field swiftly managed the situation providing technical assistance to BiH Army who set up 30 tents in the vicinity of Lipa provisional camp.

Relocation of persons started immediately to the provisional camp. IOM's teams are working 24/7 to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants, and are also providing solutions for those sleeping outside in USC through outreach teams. IOM is open to finding more sustainable solutions and is pushing for authorities to take charge of the processing and accommodation of migrants.

On 30 December, the Council of Ministers issued the decision that Lipa would be converted to an official Reception Centre, where the State authorities are in the lead and IOM provides technical support and funding, through the EU. The construction have just started and work will last a minimum 3-4 months, depending on the weather conditions.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in BiH has deteriorated dramatically after the closure of ETC Lipa on 23 December following the decision of BiH Council of Ministers, with current humanitarian and protection needs of migrants and asylum seekers exceeding the response capacity. In addition, densely populated centres are aggravating protection and health risks of migrants and asylum seekers residing in the active Temporary Reception Centres (TRC), particularly considering the COVID-19 pandemic. Compared to 2020, official capacity has been reduced from 8,282 to 3,540 beds by the closure of TRC Bira and ETC Lipa in the last quarter of 2020. IOM placed additional beds and increased the capacity in TRC Miral and Blazuj to accommodate more than 1,000 and 3,000 persons respectively in each centre.

At present, around 982 migrants and asylum-seekers are stranded at the location of the former camp Lipa, subject to immediate safety, health and protection risks, further aggravated by continuous snowfalls and temperatures below zero. Given the seriousness of the

situation and the continuous appeal from the UN, the EU and other humanitarian actors to intervene, former residents of ETC Lipa were temporarily accommodated in tents set up by the BiH Army and assisted by IOM, the BiH Red Cross and other humanitarian actors, under the supervision of the BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), after BiH Federal Authorities decided to set up a provisional camp near the former Emergency Tent Camp. Conditions at the site are very precarious for inadequate water, lack of electricity and sewage connection, very low temperatures and surrounding minefields. An estimated 8,400 persons are present in BiH, around 5,900 are in IOM managed reception facilities while 2,500 migrants and asylum-seekers live in squats in forests and abandoned buildings throughout BiH, without access to basic shelter and services, on the verge of an epidemiological and humanitarian catastrophe.

### CONTACTS

Chief of Mission,  
Laura Lungarotti [llungarotti@iom.int](mailto:llungarotti@iom.int)

Project Development and Information Management,  
Amira Almazomy [aalmazomy@iom.int](mailto:aalmazomy@iom.int)

+387 33 293 400

[www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina](http://www.iom.int/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina)



## NFI AND SHELTER

After the closure of ETC Lipa, and the migrants and asylum seekers being stranded outside, the Ministry of Defence of BiH set up 30 tents in the vicinity of former camp Lipa. Tents are equipped with wooden flooring, beds, blankets and heated with portable heaters. The outdoor lighting, generators and fuel for lighting and heating has been provided; electricity connection for tents is in progress; food and non-food items are distributed in the provisional camp and in squats through outreach teams.



ETC Lipa, Tents dismantling  
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In formal Temporary Reception Centres, IOM continued providing shelter and non-food items to vulnerable groups and affected populations. Newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers in all TRCs are provided with NFI through a distribution system with set schedules displaying distribution times. NFIs include clothing, footwear, hygiene products, clean bed sheets and linen upon arrival. NFIs also include packages to hospitalized migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers which contains pyjamas, slippers, a towel and other items necessary for hospital stays. Furthermore, 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. During the reporting period, given the severe weather conditions, NFI distributions focused on winter items including blankets, raincoats and shoes.

**# of NFIs distributed: 15,903**

**# of people assisted with NFIs: 1,328**



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM is working closely with the EU to identify additional accommodation spaces suitable to host migrants and asylum seekers, with the aim to unlock local resistance to the opening of new required reception centers. In TRCs, CCCM coordination meetings were regularly organized with all partner agencies including Service for Foreigners Affairs during the reporting period in order to effectively coordinate humanitarian assistance provided by all partners. In TRC Borići, discussions articulated on accommodation options for UASC in RC Duje centre (centre for minors). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed for TRC Miral to be

officially managed by the SFA with IOM as a managing partner. During the reporting period, all TRCs discussed the possibility to increase recreational and social activities for migrants and asylum-seekers due to the winter season. IOM also actively encourages the centre population to play an active role in decision-making process and activities that affect them. TRCs have Community Representative Councils, and “Boys Parliament” - to ensure that UASC views and needs are considered and discussed - and Compliant and Feedback Committees, of which regular meetings are organized by IOM with partner agencies. In all TRCs, IOM is also running info-desks, as reference points where the centre population can ask general questions and access information about available assistance and protection services within and outside of the TRCs.



## WASH

IOM rapidly set up five sanitary containers and portable toilets for basic hygiene and sanitation at the provisional camp in the vicinity of Lipa, while water is supplied with a cistern truck.

IOM is providing safe water, water tanks, hygiene kits to migrants and asylum seekers across five TRCs. Hygiene awareness raising activities, which incorporate mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, are regularly held. IOM also dedicates significant efforts to maintenance and repair, particularly of WASH containers and infrastructure, as damages occur frequently in all TRCs. Regular repairs and replacements on a daily/weekly basis include sink faucets, toilet tanks and pipes, shower faucets, flushers, and water taps. All TRCs have functional laundry systems for the washing of TRC bedding/sheets and the centre population’s personal belongings. In order to increase WASH capacities, a second sanitary container for the isolation area was delivered to TRC Sedra, while in TRC Usivak, two new sanitary containers with five showers and five toilets each were delivered, increasing the available number of toilets/showers in the centre.

**# of people assisted with laundry services: 1,434**

**#of laundry bags washed: 1,592**



## FOOD AND NUTRITION

IOM and partners (Red Cross in Una-Sana Canton/Salakovac; and Pomozi.ba in Sarajevo Canton) continued to support the provision of three meals and two fruit snacks per day in all TRCs. In USC, upon the request of the centre population, IOM made available open, fully equipped kitchens for migrants to prepare their own food. IOM continued to measure satisfaction with meals, by conducting surveys, in terms of quality and quantity offered. During the reporting period, changes to the menu were conducted in TRC Borići and TRC Sedra, based on feedback received by migrants and asylum-seekers’. In all TRCs, IOM provides specialized food to migrants in need of specific dietary requirement, and special complementary food to babies below 24 months which is prepared by Red Cross in line with UNICEF’s guidelines on child feeding and provided in TRC Sedra, Borići, Usivak and Salakovac.

**# of meals distributed: 66,674**



# DAILY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Outreach teams, composed by IOM and USC Red Cross staff and volunteers, daily monitor migrants and asylum seekers living in makeshift shelters to support them with the provision of food packages and NFIs, while also providing transportation and referral services to other organizations.



IOM Outreach activities © IOM 2021



IOM, NFI distribution in TRC Sedra © IOM 2021



IOM Outreach activities © IOM 2021

An estimated 2,500 persons live in squats in forests and abandoned buildings throughout the country or on route, without basic shelter, hygiene services, COVID-19 screening and medical care available. During the reporting period, IOM/Red Cross Outreach teams distributed NFIs to migrants and asylum seekers located in various locations in Una Sana Canton. The NFIs include clothes, hygiene items, sleeping bags, backpacks, shoes, jackets and raincoats. The majority of migrants and asylum seekers assisted were

from Pakistan and Afghanistan, followed by Bangladesh and Morocco.

From the day of ETC closure, the number of migrants and asylum seekers in need of assistance from outreach teams is more than doubled. This is also given by the harshening of winter conditions where temperatures are below zero.

**# of food packages distributed: 3,264**

**# of Hygiene items and NFIs distributed: 3,682**

## MAIN GAPS

In the short term, main gaps concern the procurement and distribution of food and non-food items suitable for winter, such as blankets, sleeping bags, clothes (winter jackets, underwear, gloves, scarves, undershirts), raincoats, boots and hygiene packages.

In the medium to long term, main gaps concern data collection and analysis of all migrants present in BiH; capacity building of the State and the Cantonal authorities in screening, processing, managing accommodation and solutions for migrants. There is a serious lack of accommodation, access to hygiene, COVID-19 screening and medical care for persons outside official reception facilities.



Squat in Una Sana Canton © IOM 2021

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