



# OUR WORK IN TUZLA

CENTER PUZ - APRIL 2021 - NEWSLETTER



## PEOPLE ON MOVE

April marked drop in numbers of people on the move in the month of Ramadan, which was reflected in the trends themselves, but also the range of services provided. The numbers scaled down, but services had to be scaled up.

In retrospect, this month also marked a period of significant increase in COVID-19 hazards and numerous challenges in overcoming these obstacles.

Good communication with people on the move and beneficiaries of our services, listening to their needs, and the ability to adapt to change, were key features of this month.

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## WHAT'S NEW IN TUZLA

*According to information shared within Regional Outreach Coordination Working Group, in April we have observed 811 newcomers moving through Tuzla. The profile is as follows: 630 single men, 6 single women, 85 unaccompanied and separated children, 19 families with 90 family members, out of which is 59 children.*

*I/L NGO's are providing assistance in the field for all those who are sleeping rough. Humanitarian assistance is composed of Non-food items, food packs and hygiene packs.*

*PUZ has provided 798 overnight stay and accommodated 58 extremely vulnerable people, out of which there were 5 families with 16 family members and 7 children.*

*We continue to provide support through our Mobile Outreach Team providing winterized NFI set, and food packs for 68 persons on the move.*

**"The needs in Tuzla, a transit city, are growing as is the number of those staying here."**



*This month, a significant number of activities and services aimed at strengthening the integration and active participation in local communities of asylum seekers, as well as beneficiaries who have expressed an intention to apply for asylum, are noticeable.*



## SAFEHOUSING FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

*Ramadan brought calm period of reflection and connection, but also a time for solidarity and generosity of the local community towards refugees and people on the move.*

*Highlights of this month were certainly community iftars for all tenants, which they prepared themselves thanks to the groceries of our partners in the project HO Merhamet Tuzla, who in addition to groceries every day also provided food for sehire.*

*Due to the challenge of entering in TRC, some families remained in safe accommodation for a longer period. The family corner has become active again and filled with children's joy.*

*During this period, a number of COVID-19 positive cases have been confirmed in the safe accommodation of our organization. Extensive control and prevention measures have been taken.*

*Our organisation received so much appreciated support from our partners who are implementing the "Emergency Response for Refugees and Migrants in BiH" Catholic Relife Services and in addition the Danish Refugee Council, providing additional funding and resources to successfully control and fight the spread of infection.*

*In the first isolation period of 14 days, we were able to stop the spread of the virus, and all tenants fully recovered without any consequences to their health.*



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

*We continue to provide support for people sleeping rough through our Mobile Outreach Team providing winterized NFI set, and food packs for people on the move. Every day our team is also identifying other needs of people on the move, and assisting or referring to other service providers. We also inform them about other resources in the local community.*

*Mobile team identified vulnerable people who meet the criteria for accomodation in safe house, or to recive other forms of humanitarian aid.*

*During February in Tuzla area, we have distributed 61 winterized NFI sets, and 68 food packs.*

*As part of the work of the MOT, we regularly provide information on the situation in the country regarding the COVID-19 situation, share personal protective equipment, and refer to other organizations that provide additional services.*

**"Protecting people from violence and risks of sleeping rough is becoming priority for us in outreach"**

- insight from mobile outreach worker



*All partner organizations, including CRS, Caritas BiH, HO Merhamet and Center PUZ, visited Zenica-Doboj Canton and distributed NFI kits and food packages to people on the move. The aim of the visit was to provide assistance and assess community needs.*



## WHAT WE DO MATTERS

### FROM PUSHBACK TO HOME

*Parnija and Sulejman are staying in a safe house in Tuzla, after a violent pushback they experienced at the border.*

*Parnia comes from Iran, for facing violation of woman's rights to self-determination, while Suleiman comes from Afghanistan from which he fled with his family after their home and everything they had was destroyed.*

*They met in Turkey, fell in love and decided to set out together to reach a country where they can jointly seek asylum and build their lives with dignity.*

*Parnia enjoys painting, and Sulejman enjoys music. A love of art brought them together.*



### Drop-in center

*This month, the Drop-in Center has increased its activities through a partnership with the NGO Zemlja djece u BiH, ensuring the continuation of workshops **Working with young men in emergency situations** and the start of a Bosnian language course.*

*BHWI continues to provide psychosocial support to people on the move residing in Tuzla, while the NGO Snaga žene in cooperation with the staff of the Center PUZ continues to conduct informational and creative workshops.*



*Special emphasis is placed on the integration of asylum seekers through the "**Asylum Seekers Support Package**" in which 6 asylum seekers participate and reside in the residential communities of the Center PUZ.*

## DONORS AND PARTNERS



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