

OUR WORK IN TUZLA

CENTER PUZ - FEBRUARY 2021 - NEWSLETTER



AID IN NEED

BY DANIJEL VASILJ

The month of February was marked by the expansion of humanitarian aid and the beginning of new activities in the work of the Center PUZ. The introduction of new safe spaces for people on the move, and the expansion of the geographical area of assistance will allow us to reach more people on the move who are vulnerable and need support. "EveryONE safe" continues to be our motto this month, especially through the development of integration packages for asylum seekers.

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WHAT'S NEW IN TUZLA

BY DANIJEL VASILJ

According to information shared within Regional Outreach Coordination Working group, in February we have observed 499 newcomers moving through Tuzla. The profile is as follows: 330 single men, 117 unaccompanied and separated children, 12 families with 50 family members, and 2 single women.

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 accommodated 57 extremely vulnerable people, out of which there were 6 families with 27 family members and 8 children.

We continue to provide support through our Mobile Outreach Team providing winterized NFI set, and food packs for 71 people on the move.

"Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety, and a better future. It is part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family."



The conditions of staying outdoors are still very challenging and lead to various risks. The mental health of people on the move is still at a very unsatisfactory level, and access to services continues to be difficult.



SAFEHOUSING FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

BY FAHRUDIN ŠEHMEHMEDOVIĆ

During the month of February, we increased the accommodation capacity of an additional 20 places according to the needs due to the cold winter days. At the moment, we have space for 60 beneficiaries in two safe houses in Tuzla.

In recent weeks, culinary workshops have been held where beneficiaries have prepared traditional dishes from their home countries and shared them with staff and between each other as a way to get to know each other culture.



The main activity of the month was "Integration Olympic Day" which, through the organization of sport activities, gathered people from Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Morocco and Algeria. At the end of the Olympics, valuable prizes were awarded and the entire cycle was ruled by fair play.

After main event, beneficiaries enjoyed the local cuisine and walk through glorious site of Konjuh mountains.

"This was a different kind of game. It was beautiful"



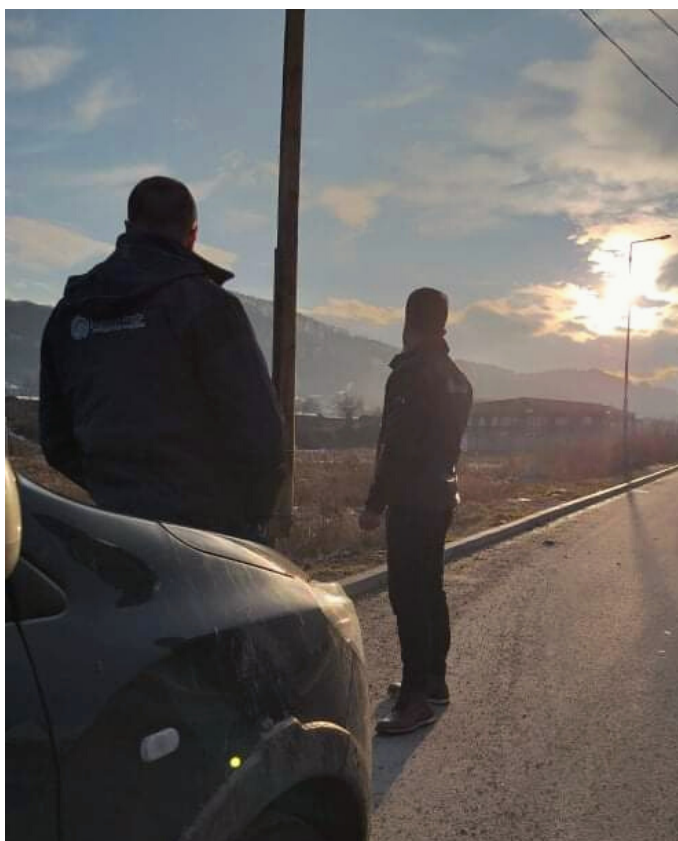
In these cold February days, a home library was formed that offers people on the move the opportunity to feel the paper of the book that can take them to some other places and reduce the difficulties they encounter along this way.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

BY SEMINA SALIHOVIĆ

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 have right for accomodation in safe house, or recive other forms of humanitarian aid.



During February in Tuzla area, we have distributed 69 winterized NFI sets, and 71 food pack.

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, such as free legal aid.

"We are hungry, nights are cold. Every day is more dangerous and we are scared."



Prompted by concerns about the extremely low temperatures and conditions in which people on the move are staying, the mobile outreach team toured local communities in Maglaj and Jelah (-5 °C).

NEXT STEPS IN PUZ WORK

Our Drop-in center is ready to open with beginning of March and it will provide additional safe place for people living in Tuzla area.

Drop-in center is established with help from Caritas BiH, and it is a place for all people on the move, especially asylum seekers to access information, workshops, non formal education, social activities and more.

Drop-in will serve as protection and information hub for all beneficiaries who need additional support in accessing their rights.

Asylum seeker support and integration package (ASSIP)

Asylum seekers who conducted the first registration and entered the official procedure, are a category of beneficiaries that proved to be very important in the context of support during their stay in the country, but also prepare for the period after the decision.

Through this activity, and the support of the Italian organization BAOBAB Experience, we are able to provide integration support for nine asylum seekers.



Support is reflected in housing, development of additional skills, involvement in social activities and access to local community resources.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PUZ



Goli brijeg 14, 75000, Tuzla



+387(0)35/ 288 - 505



info@puz.ba



www.puz.ba