

OUR WORK IN TUZLA

CENTER PUZ - MARCH 2021 - NEWSLETTER



AID IN NEED

The month of March was marked by great challenges for humanitarian workers and organizations in BiH with new COVID-19 cases among people on the move.

This situation forced us to make significant decisions and measures that limited us in providing assistance. With an increasing number of newcomers on the move, increasingly restrictive measures taken by local, cantonal and state authorities, and the protracted vaccine delay, COVID-19 poses one of the most significant risks to the well-being of people on the move in BiH."

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WHAT'S NEW IN TUZLA

According to information shared within Regional Outreach Coordination Working Group, in March we have observed 1.306 newcomers moving through Tuzla. The profile is as follows: 1.042 single men, 117 unaccompanied and separated children, 49 families with 147 family members, out of which is 56 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 accommodated 138 extremely vulnerable people, out of which there were 11 families with 32 family members and 12 children.

We continue to provide support through our Mobile Outreach Team providing winterized NFI set, and food packs for 95 people on the move.

"It is obvious that March has brought a significant increase in the number of people passing through Tuzla, and we expect this trend to continue."



With the isolation of temporary reception centers in BiH, a large number of people on the move do not have access to accommodation in camps, and are forced to sleep outdoors. We also notice a larger number of people staying in the Tuzla Canton, including some unaccompanied and separated children.

SAFEHOUSING FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

With the increase in the number of newcomers passing through Tuzla, the number of beneficiaries who need protection and safe accommodation has also increased. This month, children's sounds of laughter and joy spread in safe houses.

This posed new challenges for employees in organizing daily activities, which were overcome through the introduction of coloring and drawing lessons, the exchange of fairy tales in the languages of the countries from which children are coming, countless hours of Lego's, board games and outside activities.



During this period, a number of creative and informative workshops were also held in the houses, which included trainings on topics from the right to asylum all the way to processing of wool and wood for making decorative items, such as SafeHouse for birds on front page of this Newsletter.

The workshops were led by the partner organization "Snaga žena", within our project with Catholic relief service (CRS) "Emergency Response for Refugees and Migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina".



Due to the increased number of COVID-19 positive POM, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Public Health, the movement of beneficiaries is limited, and we have introduced a number of measures to reduce the psychosocial consequences of isolation.

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

During February in Tuzla area, we have distributed 63 winterized NFI sets, and 95 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.

"Please just take our son, he is 11. We will manage."

- insight from mobile outreach worker who is explaining to a mother that they are all welcome in our accomodation



Prompted by concerns about the extremely low temperatures and conditions in which people on the move are staying, the mobile outreach team toures local communities in Maglaj, Tešanj and Jelah. We have observed 165 POC sleeping rough.

WHAT WE DO MATTERS

FROM STREET TO HOME

Yussuf is from Morocco, where he was born and raised, but being part of a different social group he faced prosecution and forced unemployment from his country.

In 2019, Yussuf came to Bosnia in order to go for Europe. Once here, though, he fell in love with Bosnian culture and people. He asked for asylum.

Yussuf has come a long way since his first arrival in Bosnia, and now he is participant in Center PUZ integration and assistance packet for asylum seekers, living in apartment, working hard to find a job, and participating in his local community.



Drop-in center

This month we have celebrated 8th of March, International woman day, and our participants have shared roses made from napkins to women in Korzo promenade.

Napkins, a symbol of the struggle and survival of people on the move in BiH, on this day, become a channel through which they share messages of solidarity and bring attention to the rights of women and girls on the move.

The services of the Drop-in Center were used by 17 participants in March.



Of the additional activities, in cooperation with UNHCR, information materials for the asylum process were set up and we continued to strengthen the capacities of peer educators who provide assistance to potential asylum seekers.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PUZ



Goli brijeg 14, 75000, Tuzla



+387(0)35/ 288 - 505



info@puz.ba



www.puz.ba



www.facebook.com/Centar.Puz