

**DRC** DANISH  
REFUGEE  
COUNCIL



DRUŠTVO CRVENOG KRSTA/KRIŽA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE  
CRVENI KRIŽ FEDERACIJE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE



JUNE 2022

# HEALTH FACTSHEET



STRENGTHENING  
REFUGEE  
HEALTH



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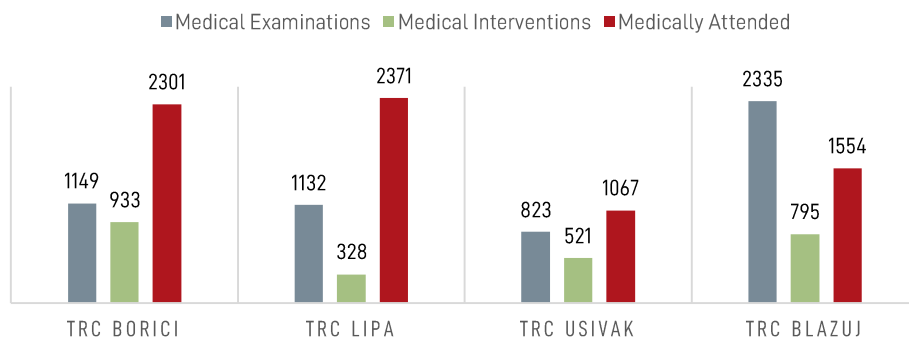
Photo: DRC



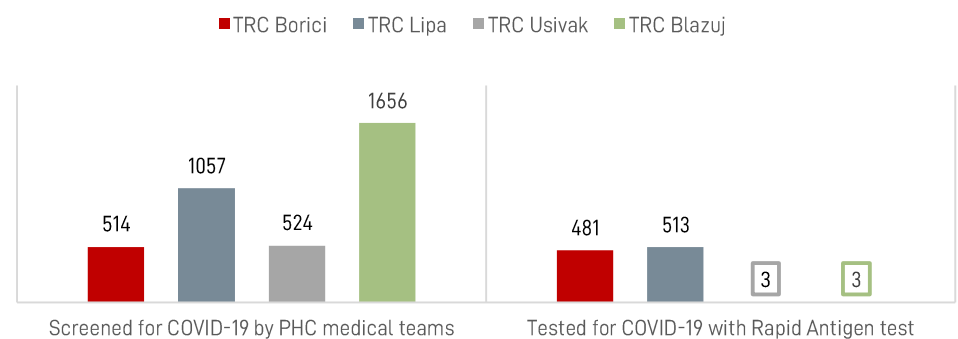
# 1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS & MONTHLY TRENDS

- ❖ DRC has ensured **5.439 medical examinations** and **2.577 medical interventions** in June 2022. Alongside this, there were **7.293 PoCs medically attended directly by DRC staff** inside TRCs in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Moreover, DRC facilitated 1.502 pediatric examinations & interventions within two pediatric units in TRCs Usivak and Borici.
- ❖ DRC has facilitated **56 referrals towards PHCs** and **45 referrals towards SHCs** for specialized healthcare and diagnostics. Moreover, **6 PoCs were hospitalized** in healthcare facilities.
- ❖ As a part of DRCs COVID-19 response, **PHC medical teams performed 3.751 medical screenings** in four reception centers. Furthermore, **1.000 PoCs were tested for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen tests**, out of which 83 came back positive. Additionally, four beneficiaries were tested for COVID-19 using the PCR test, two of which turned out to be positive.

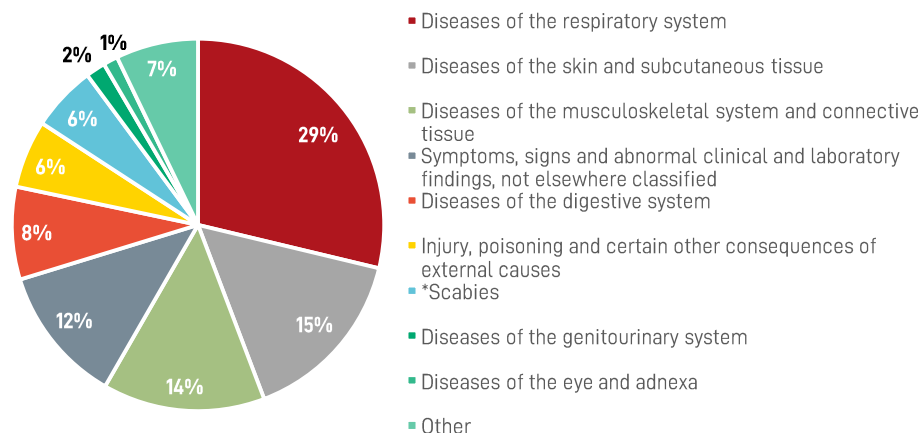
**DRCs HEALTH RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS**



**DRCs COVID-19 RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS**



**CLASSIFICATION OF MOST FREQUENT DISEASES AND HEALTH RELATED PROBLEMS**



## OBSERVATIONS

- 🏥 Number of medical examinations have remained similar to May 2022, with a minor increase of only 4% in absolute numbers. Therefore, there is a similar incidence across many recorded morbidities, compared to previous month and in line with seasonal trends. Significant increase was recorded for skin conditions (49% increase), as well incidence of Scabies (43% increase), compared to May 2022. This is in line with a higher number of times PoCs exit and re-enter the reception center having spent days outside in unsanitary conditions and extreme heat.
- 🏥 In addition, there have been significant increase in number of recorded injuries in 13% compared to May 2022. Unexpectedly, as per seasonal trend, number of respiratory conditions have increased in 8%, while gastrointestinal conditions have decreased in 12%, which potentially is due sudden weather changes and a lower number of PoCs seeking medical aid for these conditions.
- 🏥 When it comes to referrals for specialized health care and diagnostics, namely PHC referrals were for dental services. Moreover, SHC referrals were for specialist examination, namely internists and physiatrist.
- 🏥 Hospitalizations were mainly due to injuries and acute conditions needing immediate medical aid, as well exacerbation of chronic conditions.

## 2. HEALTH RESPONSE

- ❖ To stress the importance of DRC's Health Response inside and outside of TRCs, DRC has developed a tool to track incoming inquiries and referrals to enhance DRCs' service provision and the quality of the response, enabling informed programme adjustments. Most of the referrals and inquiries were received inside of TRCs (98%).
- ❖ **DRC has successfully addressed 3.880 incoming health related inquires/referrals** received from other organizations in June 2022.

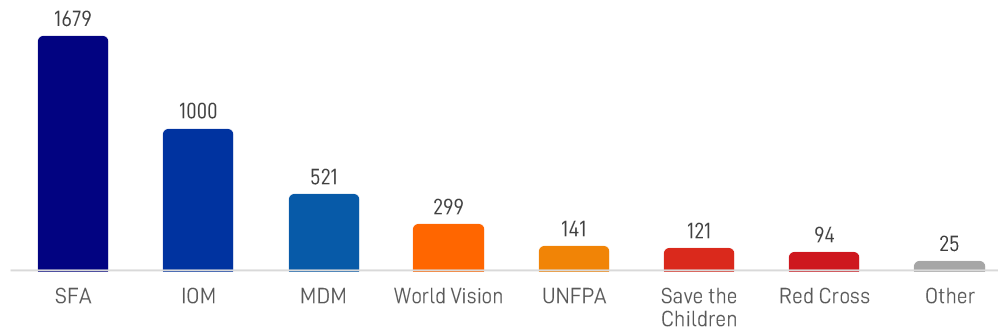
### INCOMING INQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

**3.728**  
Incoming healthcare referrals

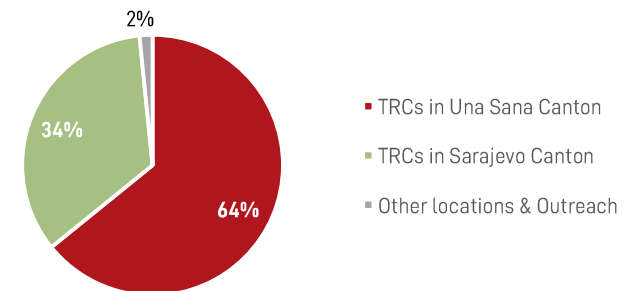
**90**  
Health related expertise provided

**62**  
Pediatric health expertise provided

#### HEALTH INQUIRIES/REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM:



#### INCOMING HEALTH INQUIRIES AND REFERRALS: TRCs & OUTREACH



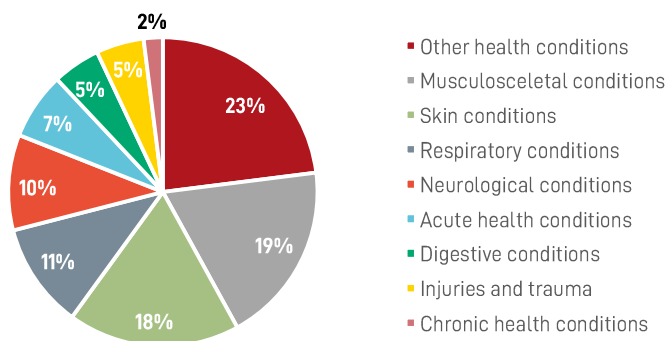
### DRC ASSISTANCES & REFERRALS IN OUT-OF-SITE AREAS

**612**  
Basic medical assistance provided

**25**  
Different locations

**69**  
Referrals for further support

#### HEALTH CONCERNS IN OUT-OF-SITE LOCATIONS



#### OBSERVATIONS

- 🏠 Number of medical assistances in out-of-site locations have decreased by 26%, compared to May 2022, which corresponds to PoCs moving more frequently in between centers and informal settlements.
- 🏠 There has been no significant change in reported health conditions, with the exemption of reported musculoskeletal concerns. This clearly corresponds to the fact that individuals residing in these locations are often moving to and out of the TRCs, where access to proper accommodation and continuous healthcare is available, thereby decreasing the number of days sleeping rough and without medical aid.

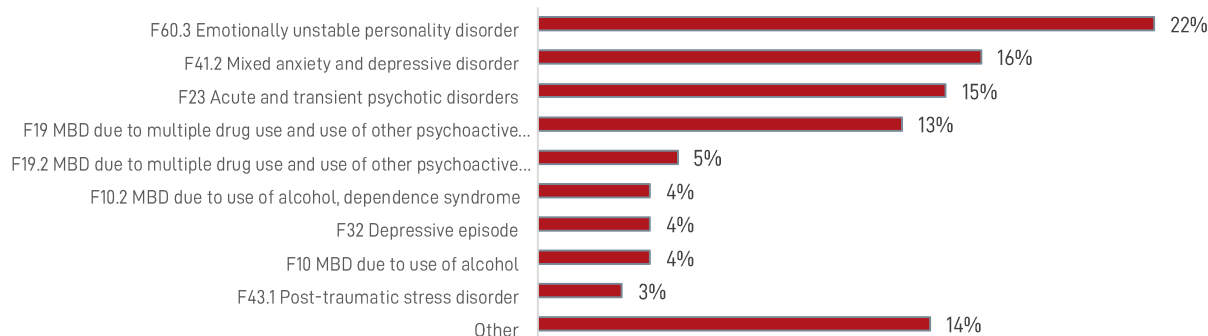


## 3. MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### Médecins du Monde - MDM

- ❖ Médecins du Monde - MDM, assisted 553 new direct beneficiaries residing in TRCs in Una- Sana Canton and Canton Sarajevo. A total of 311 individual psychological counselling sessions were conducted. Most frequently reported psychological symptoms include: Feeling nervous, restless or tense (8.39%), Sleeping problems (7.69%), Excessive worrying (7.69%), Low energy/feeling tired/exhausted (6.99%), Intense feeling of sadness (6.29%), Recurrent distressing memories of the traumatic event (5.59%), etc.
- ❖ In addition, 42 group empowerment and 34 psychoeducational sessions were organized in TRCs for a total of 1393 participants. Psychoeducational group sessions included topics of Positive Masculinity, Communication skills, Mental Health Awareness, Emotional Awareness, Stress management and Anger management. Empowerment group sessions included activities related to Self-Awareness through creative techniques, Harm Reduction, Self-improvement and Relaxation techniques.
- ❖ MdM Psychiatric Specialists provided regular/follow-up psychiatric consultations in all 4 TRCs, with total of 101 psychiatric care consultations conducted for 77 individuals (7 female beneficiaries, 70 male beneficiaries). There were 12 new referrals from MdM MHPSS teams towards Psychiatric Specialists.
- ❖ 111 MHPSS services were provided in outreach locations where all male beneficiaries mostly from Afghanistan and Pakistan were present.

### MOST FREQUENT PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS



### Harm Reduction Program

- ❖ In addition to all the difficulties and challenges in the implementation of the HR program, we can say that with users who are currently included in the program, or were in the program before leaving the camp, we have achieved certain goals of the HR program - prevention of strong withdrawal symptoms, prevention of impulsive reactions and/or self-harm, reduction of thefts and conflicts between users, reduction of the dose of drugs for a smaller number of addicts (who do not buy additional pills), and in a certain way we have influenced the improvement of the health and quality of life of the users.
- ❖ It is noticeable that individual users, whose daily functioning has improved, are better accepted than long-term users in the camp, and that they avoid them less and communicate with them more. Most of the users in the HR program come from dysfunctional families, and have bad or no relationships with family members, and addiction has led them to a hopeless life situation.
- ❖ The role of MDM is to implement the HR program, in such a way that it tries to motivate users to join the program and respect the rules of the program, providing continuous support to users, regular psychiatric controls, constantly informing and educating users about the risks of taking drugs to which they are addicted to, and other psychoactive substances, providing advisory support.

### Red Cross

- ❖ Red Cross Teams, supported by DRC through ECHO funding, have been operational in out-of-site locations (Tuzla, Goražde, Bosanski Petrovac and in Sarajevo Canton). Red Cross teams assisted a total of **1.226 PoCs** (1.119 adult men, 27 adult women, 10 girls and 69 boys). Red Cross teams provided **694 Psychological First Aid (PFA) consultations**, with **121 MHPSS consultations done by psychologist**. Moreover, **1.410 First Aid assistances** (for PoCs with muscle pain and cramps, blisters, wounds, etc.) were provided, with **185 medical consultations** performed by medical doctors.

## 4. THEMATIC FOCUS – COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN TRC BORICI



- ❖ Based on the WHO epidemiological update on COVID-19, globally, sanitary-epidemiological situation has been worsening in the past period, with the number of COVID-19 cases increasing for the past weeks, after a declining trend since the last peak in March 2022. During the week of 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, over 4.1 million cases were reported, which is an 18% increase as compared to the previous week. Consequently, the situation inside TRCs has been worsening as well, with 83 positive cases reported in the last 10 days of June. Following this, in close collaboration with the Public Health Institute of USC and relevant health institutions, DRC, with support of relevant actors, has been responding to COVID-19 outbreak inside TRC Borici.
- ❖ First positive case was reported on 20<sup>th</sup> of June, coming from the general population of the center (accommodated for more than 14 days). Upon isolating and testing the contacts, threshold of 15 positive cases, without clear epidemiological link between them, was reached. Based on the COVID-19 Emergency and Preparedness Plan for People of Concern in Temporary Reception Centers in BiH, and with timely recommendation of the PHI USC, TRC Borici was placed under lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. This included limiting the movement in and outside of the center, mandatory wearing of facemasks, keeping physical distance and discontinuation of all non-essential and group activities. New admissions inside the center were continued, but all were systematically tested with Ag-RDT beforehand.
- ❖ Mass testing of entire population residing in the center was conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June with 48 positive cases recorded, out of 219 tested. Additionally, 2 service providers were recorded positive, out of the 59 tested. In the following days, an additional 18 positive symptomatic cases were recorded, mostly among newly arrived individuals. Based on the trend, PHI USC has recommended implementation of preventive measures during the upcoming period of minimum 14 days, with biweekly revision.
- ❖ Under the supervision of PHI USC, and with support of relevant health institutions as well as other actors, DRC will continue monitoring the sanitary-epidemiological situation, compliance with recommended measures, and take necessary steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 inside and outside of the center.
- ❖ Even though the spread of the virus was quite rapid, which corresponds to new sub-variants of SARS-CoV-2, all positive cases were either asymptomatic or with mild clinical presentation of the disease, needing only supportive treatment and minimal care.
  
- ❖ Coordination meeting of the Committee for the Implementation of Vaccination Plan against COVID-19 in the FBiH, organized by the Institute for Public Health of FBiH, with the support of WHO BiH, was held in Bihac between 30<sup>th</sup> of June and 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. Meeting was attended by representatives of UNICEF BiH, USAID BiH, Cantonal Public Health Institutes directors, as well Red Cross of USK, Red Cross of the FBiH and DRC BiH. It was a good opportunity for a more detailed analysis of the current worsening epidemiological situation, both in FBiH and in the region, overview of activities in the promotion of vaccination against COVID-19, as well exchange of experiences and plans for the next period. DRC had an opportunity to present their role in the public health response to mixed migration in BiH, including the COVID-19 response. As a part of this two-day event, in coordination with SFA, official visit to TRC Lipa was organized, in order for health officials to better understand the overall health response of the state and international actors to mixed-migration.

Health Care Services are an integral part of the Danish Refugee Council's humanitarian assistance to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in BiH. DRC teams ensure timely access to primary and secondary health care, nursing care, medical escorting and health education. Additionally, in cooperation with relevant public health institutions, DRC ensures sanitary-epidemiological monitoring and infection-prevention and control measures, including the measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 infection (medical screenings, testing, isolation and vaccination). The response complements the DRC health and protection program implemented in all reception facilities and in out-of-site locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### CONTACT

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