

Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina supports migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Lost dignity should be given back to each human being on the move!

Besides the hope for a better life, every person on the move has left behind someone whom she or he needs to take care of when finding a better life!

Around **10,000 people on the move are waiting for a better life in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. In total, state institutions registered almost 60,000 persons arriving in the country since 2018. The accommodation in camps and centers is demanding and difficult due to insufficient capacities. There are never enough accommodation places for the people needing one.



Migrants and refugees do not ask for many things, only for an opportunity to shower, a change of clothes, some food, and access to internet to contact their loved ones far away. They left family members behind in their country of origin who are waiting for them to settle and start a better life, and bring to them the same better life one day.

The national and diocesan Caritas organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided support in Sarajevo Canton and Tuzla Canton (Caritas Archdiocese Vrhbosna), in Una Sana Canton (Caritas Banja Luka), and in Herzegovina Neretva Canton (Caritas Dioceses Mostar-Duvno and Trebinje-Mrkan).

Since 2018, **Caritas in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported 41,525 persons**.

The **partners of Caritas** are the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women Initiative (BHWI), the Italian organisation IPSIA, Association Puž, Association Emmaus, IOM, UNHCR, Merhemet Tuzla, as well as volunteers from Sarajevo and Tuzla.

Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina received **financial support** from the **Caritas network** (Italy, Austria, Spain, Poland, USA, Switzerland and Belgium), and outside the network from **informal groups of people from Switzerland, the Embassy of**

the Maltese Order and LDS (Latter-Day Saints) charity.

All the efforts undertaken by Caritas, with the goal to support the people in reception and asylum centers, **could not be implemented without the endorsement by the Ministry of Security and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the managers of the centers** in assessing the needs and collecting advice for better and more adequate support.

Between May 2018 and May 2020, **Caritas helped 3,305 persons with food** in the asylum center of Delijaš (near Sarajevo) and in the reception center of Salakovac (near Mostar), as well as for people on the move living in squats all around Sarajevo Canton. **960 children** were among those supported. Children are one of the **focal groups of Caritas**.

In the same period, **Caritas helped 26,481 person** on the move in Bira camp in Bihać, in Ušivak camp in Hadžići and on the streets of Tuzla by **distributing hygiene packages** and by **giving access to the Caritas laundry service**. In total, **Caritas washed and dried 97,266 kg of clothes**. In just two months, **179 persons used the showers, Internet access, and other support in the daily centre in Tuzla**.

In Tuzla Canton and in Bira camp, in the centres in Blažuj and in Ušivak as well as in the centres in Delijaš and in Salakovac, **2,357 persons received non-food items from Caritas**.

To improve the living conditions in the reception center in Salakovac and in the asylum center in Delijaš, **Caritas provided 8 washing machines, 10 boilers, 8 fridges, 4 stoves and 33 bed sheets**. This equipment should ensure that hygiene habits are improved, and to prevent diseases and to ensure food preparation for people in the facilities.

The reception center in Salakovac opened a **small adequate ambulance and Caritas provided medical devices to measure blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature, and inhalers**. In three months, **123 persons used these devices, 90% of which were children**. These items are still used on a daily basis.

The last but not least activity is the **Social Café supported by Caritas** in Bira camp, and also implemented in Delijaš and Salakovac. In Bira camp, this Social Café is a place where migrants and refugees can drink a hot tea, play with games or be part of social activities. In Salakovac and Delijaš, the residents of the centre drink a hot beverage to relax while they attend psychosocial support sessions or workshops. In two years, **126,217 hot drinks were distributed to 28,795 persons on the move**.