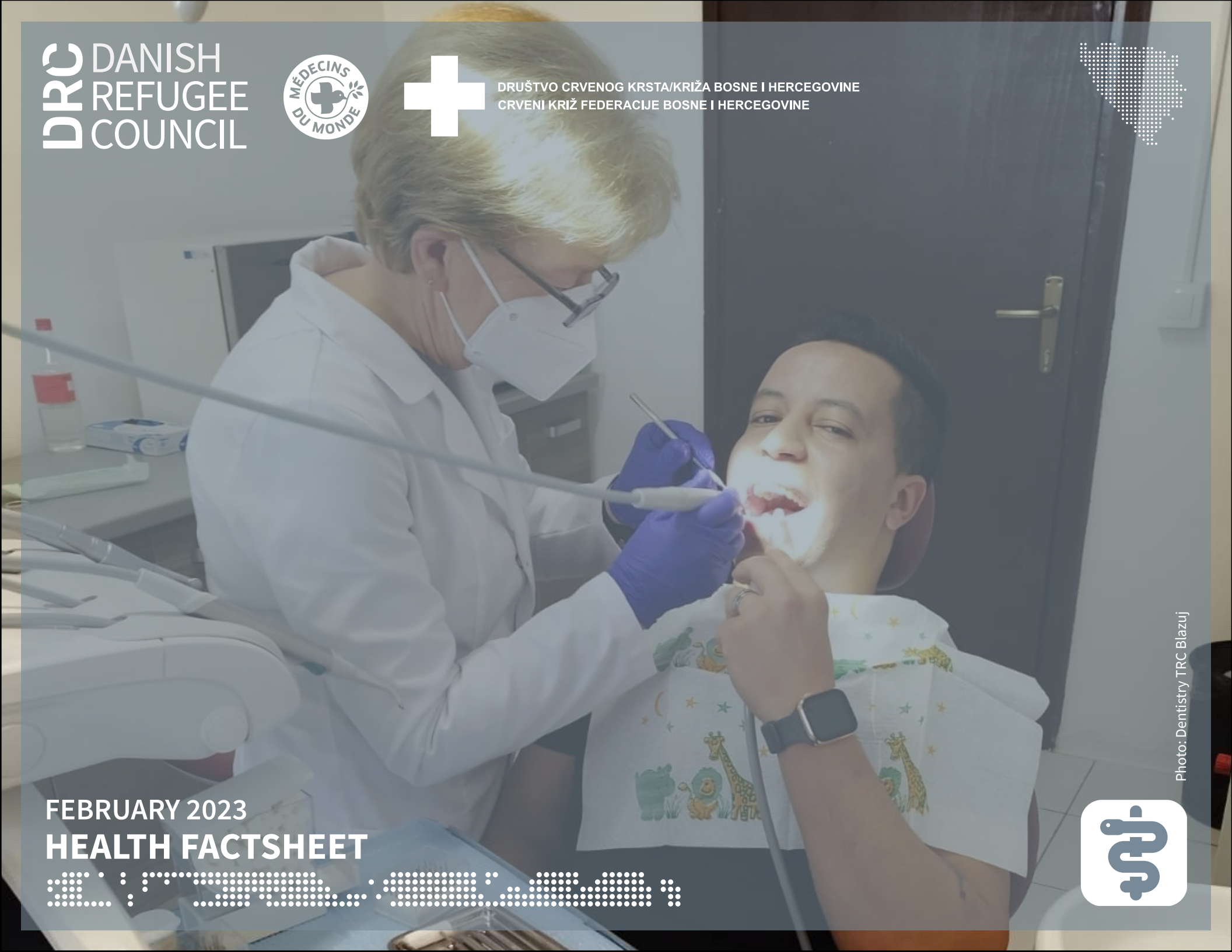


DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL



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



FEBRUARY 2023
HEALTH FACTSHEET



Photo: Dentistry TRC Blazuj

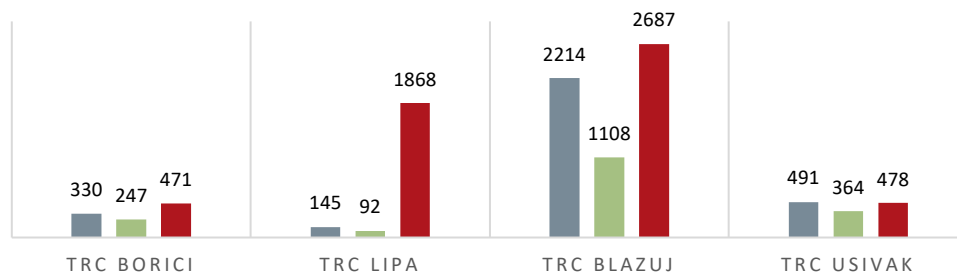


1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS & MONTHLY TRENDS

- ❖ DRC has ensured **3,180 medical examinations** and **1,811 medical interventions** in February 2023. Alongside this, there were **5,504 PoCs medically attended directly by DRC staff** inside TRCs in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Moreover, out of these, DRC facilitated **577 pediatric examinations & interventions** within two pediatric units in TRCs Usivak and Borici.
- ❖ DRC has facilitated **24 referrals towards PHCs** and **23 referrals towards SHCs** for specialized healthcare and diagnostics. Moreover, **2 PoCs were hospitalized** in healthcare facilities.
- ❖ As a part of DRCs COVID-19 response, **PHC medical teams performed 1,879 medical screenings** in four reception centers. There were **no PoC tested for COVID-19 using PCR tests**.

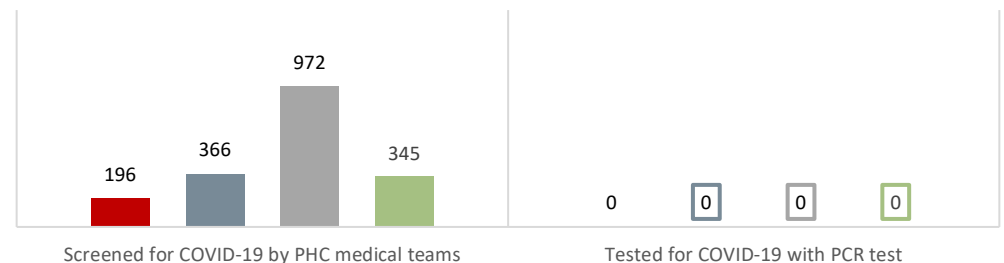
DRCs HEALTH RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS

■ Medical Examinations ■ Medical Interventions ■ Medically Attended

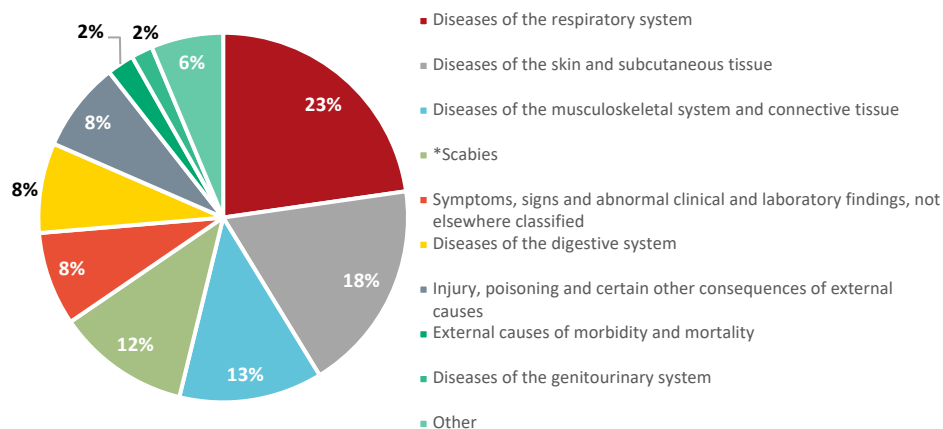


DRCs COVID-19 RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS

■ TRC Borici ■ TRC Lipa ■ TRC Blazuj ■ TRC Usivak



CLASSIFICATION OF MOST FREQUENT DISEASES AND HEALTH RELATED PROBLEMS



OBSERVATION

- Number of medical examinations have remained similar compared to January 2022, which corresponds to lower number of PoCs residing inside the centers. There is a subsequent incidence decrease among all morbidities, following the expected seasonal trend and in line with still high movement of this population.
- There has been unexpected increase in diseases of digestive system of up to 48%, as well as musculoskeletal diseases of up to 35%. This could correspond to extreme changes in weather conditions, affecting food quality and movement. Moreover, there have been increase in unclassified symptoms and signs of diseases of up to 163%, namely due to high turnover of people in the centers, with doctors unable to properly diagnose and treat them in that short period while in the center.
- When it comes to referrals for specialized health care and diagnostics, namely PHC referrals were for laboratory services and specialist examinations. Moreover, SHC referrals were for specialist examination, namely orthopedic and general surgeons attending exacerbated chronic diseases
- Hospitalizations were mainly due to trauma needing immediate surgery and intensive care.

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/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 (99%).
- ❖ **DRC has successfully addressed 4,490 incoming health related inquires/referrals** received from other organizations in February 2023.
- ❖ **DRC has successfully facilitated 80 medical escorts**, ensuring access to culturally sensitive specialized health care, diagnostics and in-patient treatment inside the local health facilities.

INCOMING INQUIRIES/REFERRALS AND MEDICAL ESCORTING

4,490

Incoming healthcare referrals

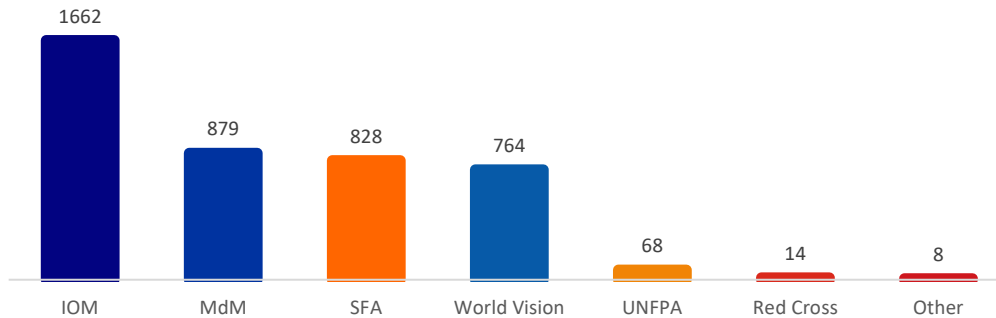
72

Health related expertise provided

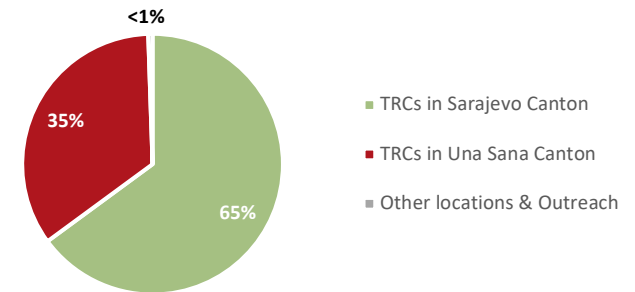
80

Medical escorting to health facilities

HEALTH INQUIRIES/REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM:



INCOMING HEALTH INQUIRIES AND REFERRALS: TRCs & OUTREACH



DRC ASSISTANCES & REFERRALS IN OUT-OF-SITE

364

Basic medical assistance provided

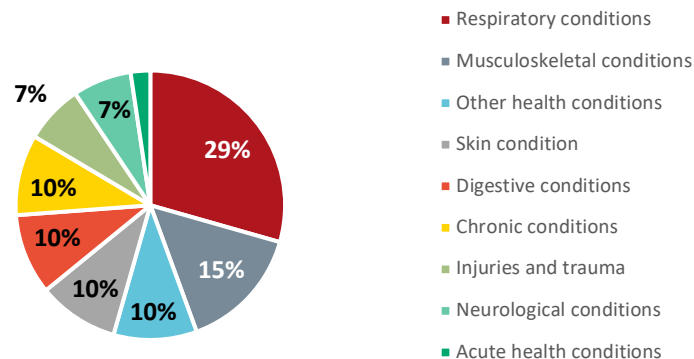
45

Different locations

105

Referrals for further support

HEALTH CONCERNES IN OUT-OF-SITE LOCATIONS



OBSERVATION

- Number of medical assistances in out-of-site locations have decreased in 23% compared to January 2023, namely due to harsh wether conditions, and high turnover of PoCs.
- There has been significant increase of incidence in reported chronic conditions of up to 74%, compared to January 2022, with patients namely needing chronic treatment for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.
- Number of locations have remained similar in comparison to January 2023.

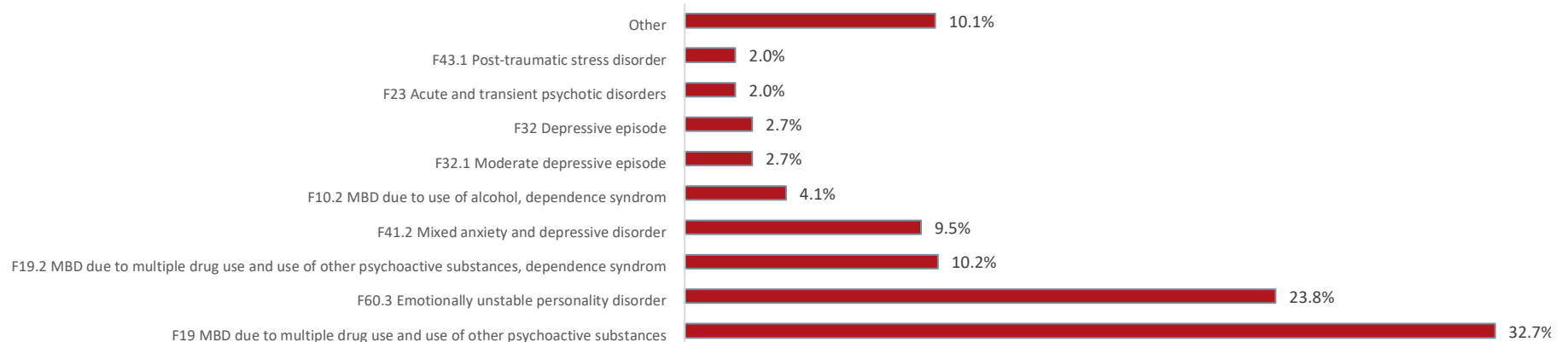


3. MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Médecins du Monde - MDM

- ❖ During February, MDM, assisted **74 new direct beneficiaries** residing in TRCs in Una- Sana Canton and Canton Sarajevo. A total of **175 individual psychological counselling sessions** were conducted. In addition, **448 participations to group (empowerment and psychoeducational) sessions**.
- ❖ In February, during the individual psychological counselling sessions, main concerns reported by PoCs was psychoactive substance abuse as a mechanism to cope with high levels of stress, feeling nervous, restless, or tense, symptoms of depression and PTSD.
- ❖ MDM Psychiatrist provided regular and follow up psychiatric consultations to PoCs residing in all four TRCs. Total of **89 psychiatric care consultations** were conducted for 76 individuals.
- ❖ On 24th of February, MDM BiH organized Regional Conference “Mental health of people on the move” attended by Federal Ministry of Health, Ministry of Security, relevant centres for social welfare, UN agencies, DRC, other professionals from the field, MdM Croatia and Psychosocial Innovation Network from Serbia. The conference aimed to share good practices from the field, identify possible gaps and to define future steps in providing high quality Mental Health and Psychosocial support to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

MOST FREQUENT PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS



Red Cross

- ❖ Red Cross Teams, supported by DRC through ECHO funding, have been operational in out-of-site locations (Tuzla, Goražde, Velika Kladuša and in Sarajevo Canton). Red Cross teams **assisted a total of 210 PoCs** (173 adult men, 4 adult women and 33 boys). Red Cross teams provided **87 Psychological First Aid (PFA) consultations**. Moreover, **282 First Aid assistances** (for PoCs with, blisters, cold, muscle pain and cramps wounds, etc.) were provided, with **42 medical consultations** performed by medical doctors.



4. THEMATIC FOCUS – ORAL HEALTH

- ❖ As an important part of preventive medicine, oral hygiene and oral health are often neglected in humanitarian crises, for several reasons, mainly due to the lack of materials and working conditions. Patients often state that any severe pain "is like a toothache", and bearing in mind the already reduced quality of life of this population, the existing toothache further impairs it, reducing the level of sleep, the quality of nutrition, and finally socialization as the basis of mental health. Guided by the fact that every 10th person who resides in the temporary reception centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina has the need for dental services and that toothache is the fifth most common reason for reporting to doctors who operate in an infirmary within the center, the need for dental care was more than obvious.
- ❖ The Danish Refugee Council, with the financial support of the Swiss Embassy in BiH, has decided to take a step forward in raising the level of health care for people on the move by establishing a dentistry unit in TRCs Blažuj and Ušivak. This was the first established Dentistry unit inside any migration center in the region, local staff from local Dental clinic began working back in August 2021. One of the main challenges DRC encountered was establishing a Dental unit that offers treatment and tooth repair services, at a level that is, by quality, equivalent to the one local population can access in local dental clinics. The health promotion and educational sessions with patients were conducted every week, in order to raise awareness on oral health, as well as give very practical tips on maintaining good oral health while on the move, and with limited access to clean water or specific hygiene supplies. The primary focus of the dentists, during the first phase of the action, was tooth extraction and dental first aid, relieving patients from pain, especially those who have been using medication for long time until they could reach a dentist.
- ❖ Having dentistry within the temporary reception center and dentists present on a daily basis has improved the overall health and wellbeing of people on the move. During the period between August 2021 and April 2022, the dentists have provided over 1,280 interventions for people residing in centers Blažuj and Ušivak, which is around 140 interventions per month. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, both human and financial, dental services were suspended at the beginning of April 2022. Since then, a drastic increase in dental complaints of up to 40% has been recorded just in first couple of months, in comparison to beginning of 2022. Moreover, the number of referrals to the Health Centers for the dental services has increased by over 500%, placing large burden on the local health system.
- ❖ Guided by the fact that dental services are much needed and being faithful to our mission to provide all aspects of health care to people on the move, DRC has allocated its own funds for dental services. Through support from Federal Chamber of Dentists, DRC engaged young dentists who express the desire to volunteer inside TRCs. Dental unit reopened mid-October 2022, working once a week, in TRC Blazuj and TRC Usivak, having up to 20 patients a week. Up until now, somewhat 480 interventions were provided. Patients were glad to again have access to dental services, and possibility to take care of their oral health. Their interest has been at a very high level since the first day of the re-opening, and the fact that some patients come to the dental unit just to consult with dentists in search of advice on better oral hygiene is the best proof of responding to true health needs.

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, basic medical and nursing care, medical escorting and health promotion and 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, vaccination and PPE distribution). The response complements the DRC health and protection program implemented in all reception facilities and in out-of-site locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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<https://drc.ngo/our-work/where-we-work/europe/bosnia-and-herzegovina/>