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RAPID NEEDS ASSESMENT REPORT

Out-of-site locations in Una Sana, Tuzla and Sarajevo Canton
Bosnia and Herzegovina

September, 2020

This assessment has been carried out in order to update the Danish Refugee Council's mapping of needs of migrants and asylum seekers' (people of concern) staying outside of formal reception capacities in Una Sana Canton, Tuzla Canton and Sarajevo Canton, with a focus on access to food, WASH and protection issues. Besides the assessment, available secondary sources were also consulted for capturing as accurate a picture as possible.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

BiH: Bosnia and Herzegovina

BAM: Bosnian Convertible Mark

DG ECHO: European Commission Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

DRC: Danish Refugee Council

ETC: Emergency Tented Center

EU: European Union

EUR: Euro

IEBL: Inter-entity Boundary Line

IOM: International Organization for Migration

NGO: Non-governmental organization

NFI: Non-food Items

NOWG: National Outreach Working Group

PSS: Psychosocial Support

PoC: Person of Concern

SC: Sarajevo Canton

SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

TC: Tuzla Canton

TRC: Temporary Reception Center

UASC: Unaccompanied and separated children

UN: United Nations

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

USC: Una-Sana Canton

WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Mixed-Migration Context in BiH

Since mid-2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) remains one of the most travelled mixed migration routes in Western Balkans, with over 65,000 arrivals registered by BiH authorities since January 2018. Since the beginning of 2020, some 12,000 asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants (hereafter “people of concern”) have been newly registered by the authorities in BiH, mainly arriving to BiH from Serbia and Montenegro. The trend of new arrivals was however significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures of restricted movement across the region from mid-March 2020.

By mid-September 2020, it was estimated that some 30% of the total population of people of concern in the country was staying outside of the reception centers. The reception facilities run by relevant local authorities and IOM accommodate slightly more than 6000 persons, while humanitarian organizations on the ground mapped some 3,500 persons staying outside of reception centers, predominantly in Una-Sana Canton (USC), Sarajevo Canton (SC) and Tuzla Canton (TC)¹.

Even though BiH authorities remain committed to strengthening border controls and management, with the aim of preventing irregular entries, new arrivals to the country are continuously being recorded. Meanwhile, the stay of people of concern in the country has been largely dependent on cooperation with international and local partners (UN Country Team, International and Local NGOs, as well as Red Cross Societies), thanks to the support of EU and other bilateral donors. As of the end of September 2020, nine formal reception facilities are operational in the country, including two government run centers (Asylum Center Delijas in Sarajevo Canton, run by the Ministry of Security/Sector for Asylum and Refugee Reception Center Salakovac in Herzegovina Neretva Canton, run by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees), six Temporary Reception Centers (TRCs), four of which in Una Sana Canton (TRCs Sedra, Borici, Bira and Miral) and two in Sarajevo Canton (TRCs Usivak and Blazuj), and the Emergency Tented Center (ETC) Lipa, established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Una-Sana Canton. TRCs and ETC Lipa are managed by IOM with the support and coordination role of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (an administrative branch of the Ministry of Security of BiH). The total capacity of the TRCs and ETC Lipa is estimated at 7,410 accommodation places, however as of the end of September the capacities were not in full use, due to restrictions on reception and registration in TRC Bira and Miral imposed by the Una Sana Canton authorities. TRC Bira, as one of the largest centers in the country, able to provide winterized accommodation for a minimum of 1,500 persons (including for UASCs, families and single adult men), remains at one third of its capacity, while other reception centers are at times overcrowded (especially TRCs Usivak and Blazuj and ETC Lipa).

¹ NOWG Contingency Plan for Humanitarian Outreach Response Winter 2020-2021 (working document)



Figure 1 – Reception Facilities in BiH

The humanitarian context in the country in 2020 is shaped by several key factors, including 1) a general lack of sufficient reception capacity across the country, 2) the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures, 3) restrictive policies across the country, with a particular impact in USC, reflected in restrictions of movement, coercive transfers of persons outside of the canton and various access issues and limitations imposed on humanitarian actors. The announced closures of TRCs Bira and Miral, combined with uncertainty around the timely winterization of and potentially ceased funding for ETC Lipa, are expected to further destabilize the humanitarian situation in the course of the winter months (October 2020 – March 2021).



Figure 2 – Areas of Congregation of People of Concern Staying outside reception facilities²

By the end of September, humanitarian organizations on the ground observed up to 3,500 persons staying outside of the reception centers, the majority of which in Una Sana Canton (estimated at slightly over 3,000 persons, i.e. 85% of the total estimated population staying outside formal reception facilities), Tuzla Canton (up to 200 persons) and Sarajevo Canton (up to 200 persons). In 2020, rising numbers of people in need has been observed in Zenica (Zenica-Doboj Canton), Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and Canton 10. Assistance in these areas has been fully dependent on the humanitarian actors on the ground.

² People of concern may be passing through or staying at other locations (in other Cantons), however these were not observed or reported by DRC or other partners and their numbers are significantly lower than in other mapped areas

DRC Outreach Response in the Country

With the aim of monitoring, assessing and responding to the needs of people of concern staying outside of reception facilities, humanitarian partners formed Outreach Working Groups (on the national level and three on regional levels), to be able to coordinate approaches, assistance and advocacy. The National Outreach Working Group is led by UNHCR, with a co-lead role of DRC.

Besides providing mainstreamed Protection and Health Response for people of concern accommodated in formal reception centers, since the beginning of 2019 DRC has been one of the main actors ensuring protection and humanitarian assistance for people of concern stranded across the country, thanks to support and funding provided by DG ECHO and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

DRC's outreach response, coordinated on the interagency level, is based on direct service delivery, but also valuable formal and informal partnerships with Red Cross Societies (DRC's implementing partner in the outreach response), as well as international/local NGOs and volunteer networks providing indispensable assistance on the ground.

Since 2019, DRC has been focusing on the following components of outreach response:

- **Protection by Presence and Protection Monitoring** (particularly at the Disembarkation Points³), including mapping of locations where persons of concern stay in sub-standard living conditions without regular access to basic assistance;
- **Pushbacks incident reporting** (across the country, but a with main focus on Una Sana Canton, i.e. the north-west border with Croatia);
- **Distribution of Emergency Food and Non-Food Supplies** (focused on people sleeping rough and persons experiencing pushbacks);
- Provision of **First Aid and PSS First Aid** (in partnership with Red Cross and directly by DRC Medical Staff at assigned locations).

1.2 Objectives of the Assessment

With a country-wide presence, and thanks to Protection Monitoring activities, DRC has been in a position to systematically observe, document and analyze the overall humanitarian context in the country, as well as the prevailing needs of people of concern stranded outside of reception centers. While the precarious conditions of people dwelling in abandoned and dilapidated buildings (abandoned factories, houses, sheds, etc.), as well as in improvised informal tented settlements in remote areas, are obvious through direct observations (sub-standard living and hygienic conditions, also directly related to the dilapidated state of these buildings, exposure to weather conditions, lack of WASH services, including toilet facilities, showers, laundry, etc.), when it comes to access to basic

³ Points where PoCs are intercepted in their movement by the local authorities and stranded at the IEBL (Una-Sana Canton, RS, other potential locations), characterized by sub-standard to no shelter conditions, high exposure to weather conditions, limited or no access to services (shops, markets, etc), limited freedom of movement.

needs (mainly access to food and water) and services, as well as to people's coping mechanisms, additional analysis was required.

This Rapid Needs Assessment has been conducted in order to assess the current level of access to food (frequency and quality of meals), level of self-sustainability of people of concern (access to markets) interlinked with the level of dependency on humanitarian assistance, as well as people's coping mechanisms (positive and negative ones that people resort to in order to access financial means) and possible protection risks arising from these.

In order to better understand the scale of the current assistance provided, DRC was also looking at partners'/other humanitarian actors' capacity and engagement in direct service delivery, specifically in terms of provision of direct assistance (including food distribution).

The immediate objectives of the assessment were:

- To assess the needs of people in out-of-site locations;
- To cross-check the findings with partners' understanding of the priority needs identified in out-of-site locations;
- To provide recommendations for further action required (when it comes to access to basic needs, food, and protection).

1.3 Methodology and Location

The assessment was based on the following methodology:

- 1.3.1 Desk Review/Secondary Data:** Before designing the assessment, secondary data was analyzed, including strategies, situation analyses, contingency plans, assessments and profiles prepared by different institutions/organizations (sources are provided in footnotes).
- 1.3.2 Design of Data Collection Tools:** The data collection tools include: KoBo questionnaire/survey for guiding interviews with, and tracking responses of, persons identified in informal accommodation; KoBo questionnaire for partner agencies operating in outreach; and DRC assessment team observations.
- 1.3.3 Primary data collection from target communities & stakeholders:** Primary data collection in the field (direct interviews with people of concern) was performed by DRC Protection Outreach Teams on 3 and 4 September 2020, while the survey with other humanitarian actors was performed online by 15 September 2020. Qualitative and quantitative data gathered has been analyzed to come up with real time data and findings.

Primary data was collected from people of concern in the Cantons covered by DRC Protection Outreach Teams, namely Una Sana Canton, Tuzla Canton and Sarajevo Canton. DRC Protection Outreach Teams **interviewed a total of 398 persons (346 in USC, 35 in TC and 17 in SC), i.e. an estimated 10% of the population observed sleeping rough in these areas.**

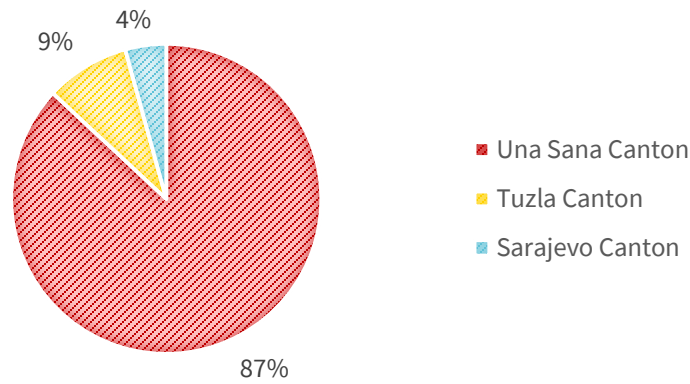


Figure 3 – Direct interviews with beneficiaries conducted per region

1.4 Assessment Tools

1.4.1 KoBo questionnaire/direct interviews with people of concern:

Conducted with at least **10% of the population** identified staying in informal accommodation in USC, TC and SC (**random sample**).

1.4.2 KoBo questionnaire/survey for partners:

Conducted with NOWG members operating across the country – completed on voluntary basis.

1.5 Locations of Rapid Needs Assessment

Canton	Municipality	Locations
Una Sana Canton	Bihac	Urban area, Villages: Barice, Vedro Polje
	Cazin	Urban area, Villages: Trzac, Sturlic, Crnaja
	Velika Kladusa	Urban area, Villages: Drmaljevo, Trn, Trn Polje, Polje, Sljivovaca, Vrnogratic, Glinica, Gradina, Bosanska Bojna
	Buzim	Urban area, Villages: Bajrici, Bezi
	Bosanski Petrovac	Urban area
	Kljuc	Velecevo (Disembarkation point)
	Bosanska Otoka	Disembarkation point between USC and RS
Canton	Municipality	Locations
Tuzla Canton	Tuzla	Tuzla Urban Area
Sarajevo Canton	Sarajevo	Sarajevo Urban Area

Table 1 – Locations per canton/municipality

In general, outreach activities/service delivery cover the following main types of locations:

- **Squats and sub-standard informal accommodation in urban areas** – below minimum living and hygienic conditions, high safety risks, limited or no access to WASH facilities, etc.;
- **Improvised/informal camps and squats in rural/remote areas** – access difficulties, below minimum living and hygienic conditions, high safety risks, high exposure to weather conditions, lack of access to services (shops, markets, post offices, etc.), no access to WASH facilities;
- **On-route points/gathering points** – transit points on route to different locations within BiH, short-term (several hours) stay, requiring one-off assistance; points are not fixed;
- **Disembarkation points** – Points where PoCs are intercepted in their movement by the local authorities and stranded at the IEBL (Una-Sana Canton, RS, other potential locations), characterized by sub-standard to no shelter conditions, high exposure to weather conditions, limited or no access to WASH facilities, limited or no access to services (shops, markets, etc.), limited freedom of movement;
- **Pushback areas** – Border areas where PoCs are on the move, exposed to extreme weather conditions, major health and safety risks, requiring early alarm systems; points are not fixed.



Figure 4 – Make-shift camp in Forest Area, USC



Figure 5 – Make-shift camp close to TRC Miral, Velika Kladusa USC

For the purpose of this assessment, **focus was placed on the urban and rural/remote locations (informal accommodation, squats and make-shift camps), and disembarkation points, where people of concern find shelter or dwell for longer period of time (several days and beyond).**

1.6 Assessment Limitations

Primary data collection from people of concern had to be conducted on the basis of random sampling and by ad-hoc selection of interviews, due to several constraints:

- Highly unstable population in the informal sites, significant turnover of population, resulting from continuous attempts for onward movement and returns after failed attempts/pushback.
- Lack of precise and available disaggregated data on population of concern, partly due to the reasons mentioned above, partly due to the limited number of humanitarian actors engaged in systematic profiling exercises.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

According to the latest Interagency reports⁴, the top registered countries of origin of accommodated migrants, asylum seekers and refugees were Afghanistan (33%), Pakistan (31,2%), Bangladesh (9,5%), Morocco (7,8%), Iran (5,6%) and Iraq (3,7%). The population in the reception centers is mainly composed of single adult males (70%). Some 21% are families with children and 8% are UASCs.

Based on daily mapping exercises performed by DRC Protection Outreach Teams and visits performed to more than **240 micro locations** (squats, informal accommodation, make shift camps, etc.), providing shelter to an estimated average of **3,000 persons**, the population staying in these locations **largely consists of single adult men**, while the number of observed **unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) varied between 3 and 4%**⁵.

Families with children were rarely met living, staying or dwelling outside the receptions centers and private accommodation. Families identified staying outdoors were mostly immediately referred to reception centers upon identification. However, due to the higher influx of families throughout September 2020; maxed out capacities for accommodation of families in Sarajevo Canton; the deterioration of the protection environment in Una Sana Canton – reflected in disembarkation practices at the entry to the Canton (regardless of vulnerabilities) as well as a ban on referrals to the centers – an increasing number of families has been observed at the disembarkation points, as well as in squats in Una Sana Canton and Sarajevo Canton. Thanks to the initiatives of humanitarian actors in Tuzla Canton, alternative and short term accommodation is provided to families until referral is conducted to one of the reception centers (mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran). As of 19 August, following the ban on reception of families in centers in

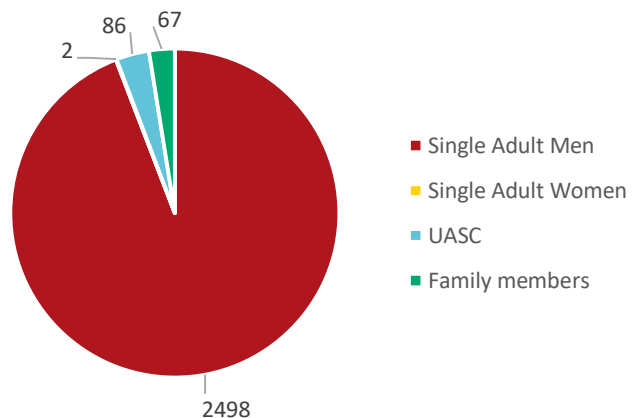


Figure 6 – Age and gender disaggregation of PoCs in outreach

⁴ BiH Internal Interagency Weekly 7 – 13 September 2020

⁵ These estimates are based on the self-identification of people of concern. The number of UASC might be higher, especially in the larger squats accommodating from 250 persons and above, however the precise number could be acquired only through dedicated assessments. Most of the assessments of the number of UASC in these locations are performed by DRC through Distribution Activities.

USC, DRC started regular mapping of families staying in front of reception centers, waiting for accommodation. The number of families identified at out-of-site locations has varied significantly since 19 August, as families try repeatedly to find a way to move towards Croatia, or try to find accommodation, moving back to Sarajevo. For these reasons, there are challenges in coming up with precise demographic data for families staying out-of-site (outdoors or in inadequate accommodation).

The following graphs present the age and gender disaggregation of the persons interviewed in Una Sana Canton, Tuzla Canton and Sarajevo Canton (overall and per canton):

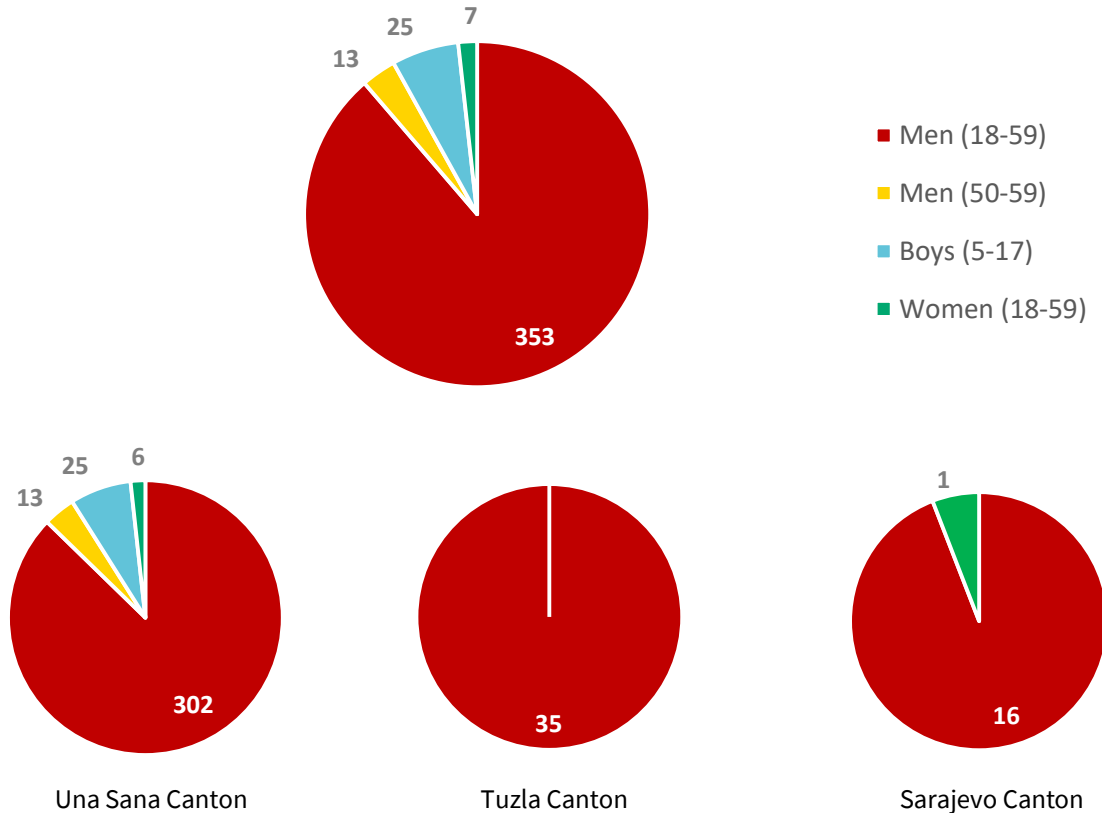
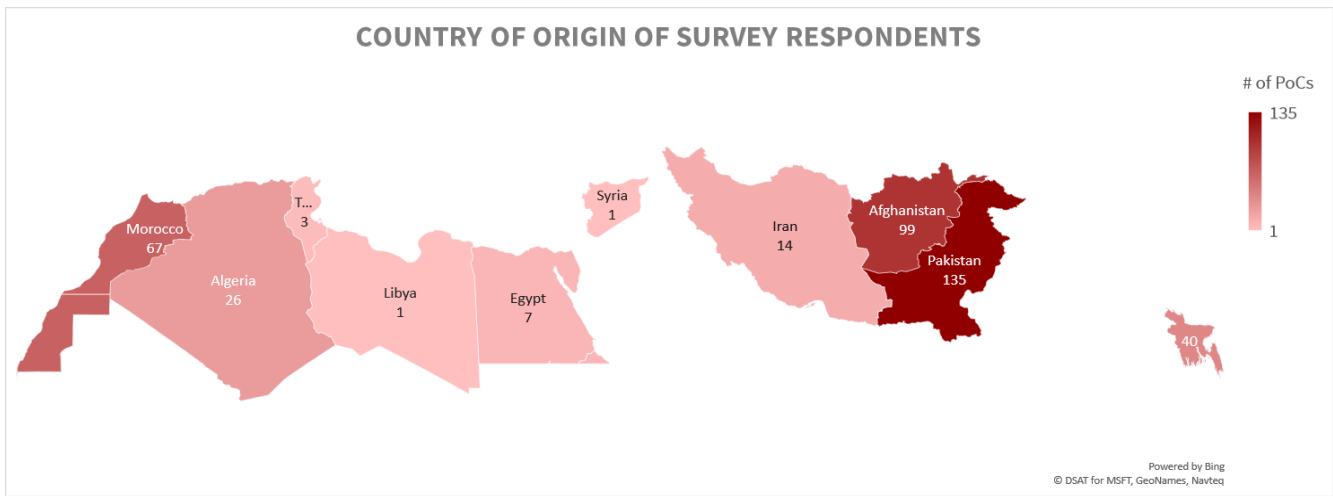


Figure 7 – Age and gender disaggregation of interviewees (overall and per canton)

When it comes to countries of origin of the persons observed staying outside formal reception structures, predominantly persons from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were observed, followed by persons from Maghreb countries, and smaller numbers of persons from Iran, Iraq and Syria observed.

This was also confirmed through primary data collection, with the highest number of interviewed persons originating from Pakistan (135 persons, or 34%), Afghanistan (99 persons, or 25%) and Morocco (67 persons, or 17%).



Country of Origin	# of PoCs	Country of Origin	# of PoCs
Pakistan	135	Egypt	7
Afghanistan	99	Palestine	5
Morocco	67	Tunisia	3
Bangladesh	40	Libya	1
Algeria	26	Syria	1
Iran	14		

Figure 8 – Countries of origin of interviewees

3. DESK REVIEW AND FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Needs Assessment – People of Concern:

In the course of two days (3 and 4 September 2020), DRC Protection Outreach Teams conducted interviews with the affected community – migrants and asylum seekers sleeping rough (in the open) or in squats and other facilities, improper for stay and living (lacking basic facilities), in Una Sana Canton (USC), Sarajevo Canton (SC) and Tuzla Canton (TC):

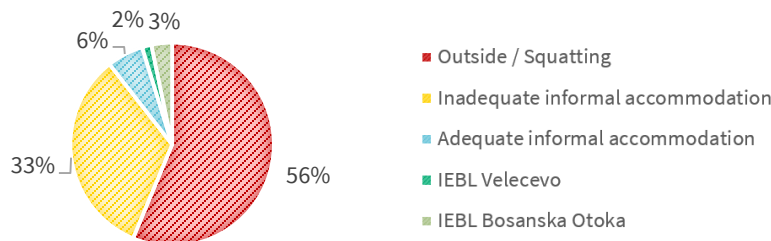


Figure 9 – Types of locations where interviewees were identified

3.1.1 Access to food

Out of 398 persons interviewed, the majority stated that they had **two meals per day** in the days before the interview (**52%**), while **23% reported that they had three meals per day**, **23% reported having only one meal per day** and **1% of the total population responded that they did not have a single meal for several days**. Only one person reported having more than 3 meals per day. **It is important to note that all PoCs who reported not having access to food at all, were identified and interviewed in USC.**

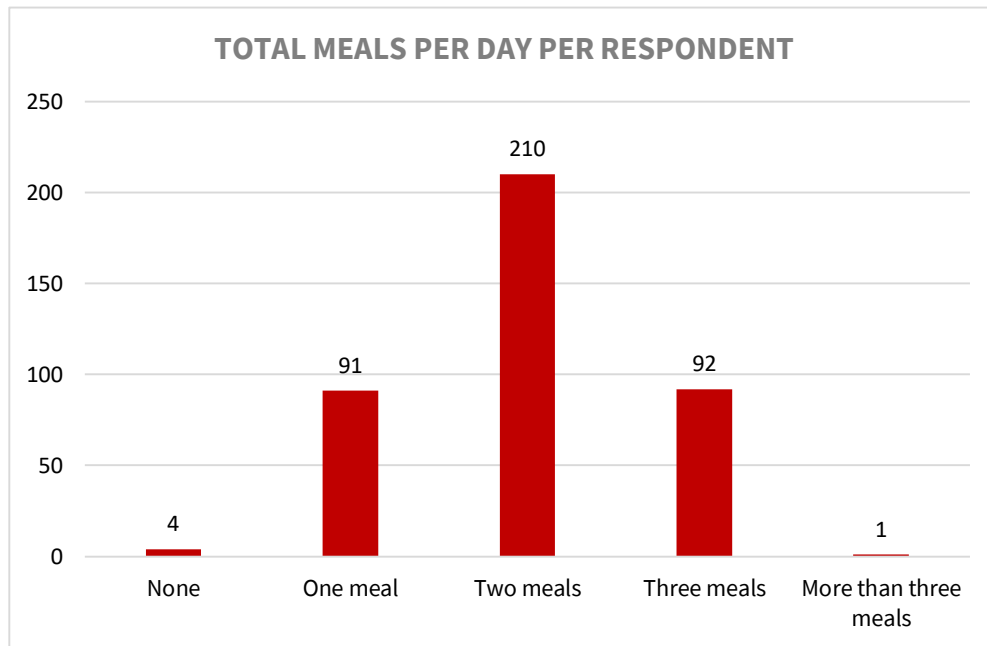


Figure 10 – Interviewee responses on frequency of meals

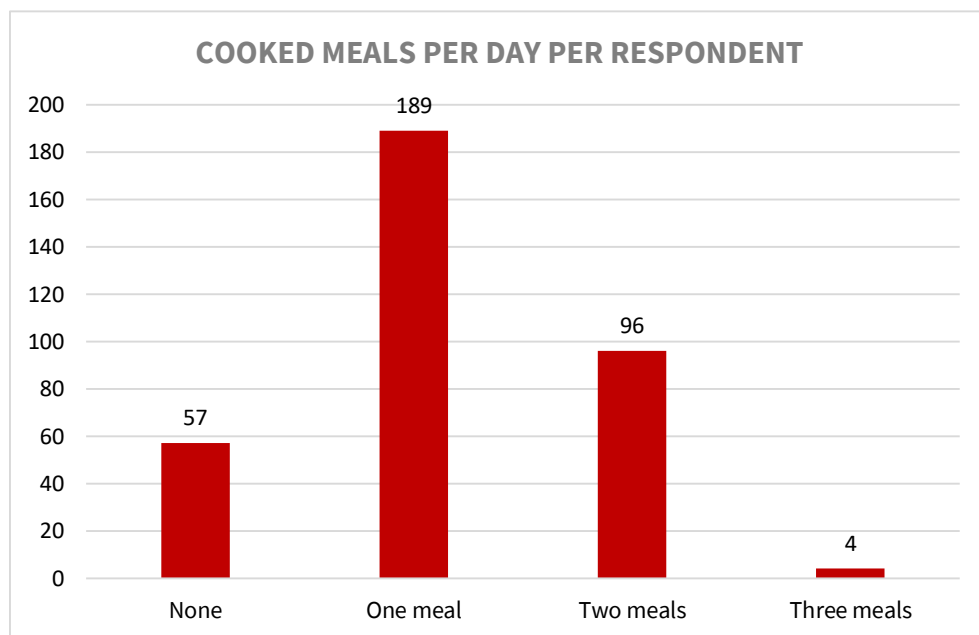


Figure 11 – Interviewee responses on frequency of cooked meals



Figure 12 – PoCs preparing food in a squat in Polje, Velika Kladusa, USC, housing approximately 110 persons

Suggesting that access to food is an issue for the majority of persons staying rough, **84%** of the total number of interviewed persons **reported that they have experienced days when they have not eaten at all:**

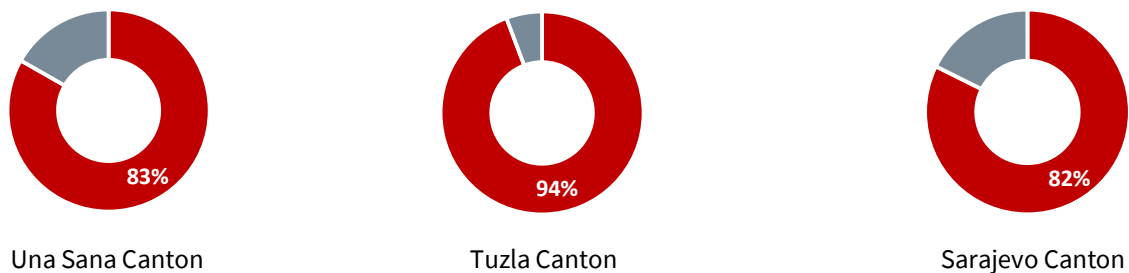


Figure 13 – Interviewee responses on whether or not they have been exposed to situations of not having any meals

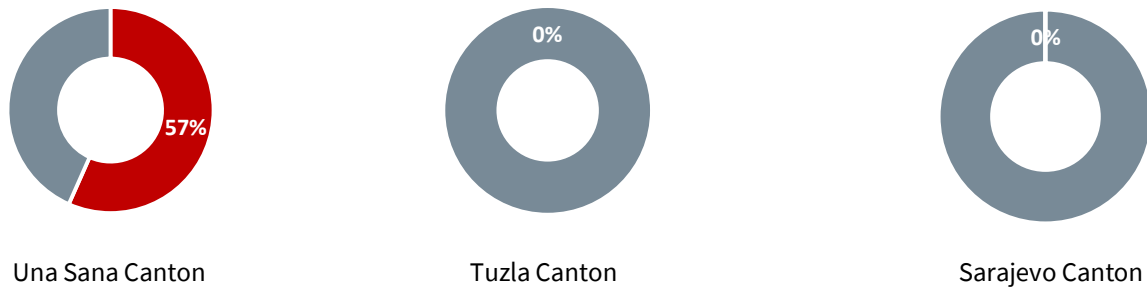


Figure 14 – Interviewees reporting having no access to clean drinking water

The majority of interviewees reported having at least one cooked meal per day (56%), however, **49% reported having no access to clean water**. When it comes to health issues related to access to clean water, **38% of population reported experiencing health problems (92% of these in Una Sana Canton)** such as vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain and loss of appetite. More than **78% of interviewees reported drinking less than 1.5L of water per day**.

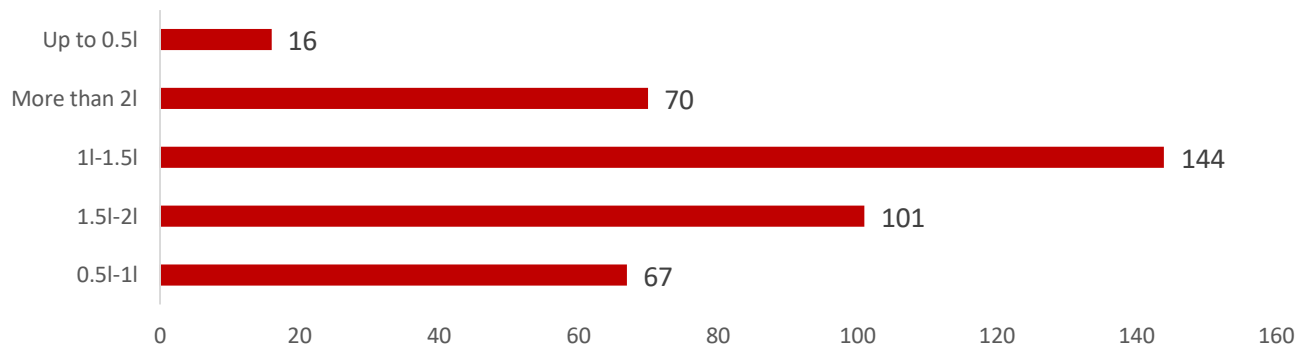


Figure 15 – Interviewee responses on the amount of water consumed per day

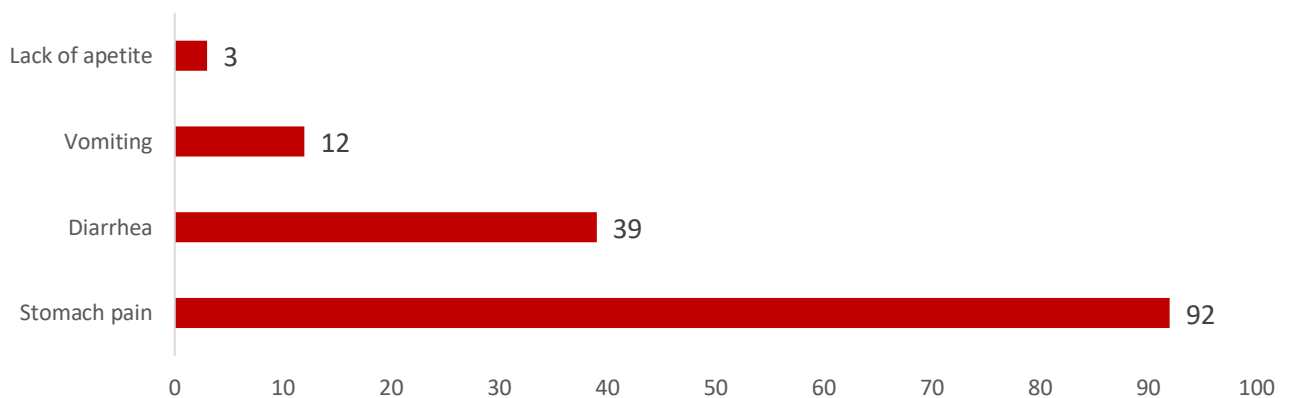


Figure 16 – Interviewee responses on health issues related to the quality of water and food consumed

In general, **people of concern depend on humanitarian assistance when it comes to access to food** – 40% of interviewees receive food at least twice per week (almost all of them in USC), 38% receive it

at least once per week, some **10% reported receiving assistance 3-5 times per week**, while almost **4% receive it every day (the majority of which in USC)**. Only 7% reported never before receiving food assistance in out-of-site locations (almost all of them in interviewed in USC).

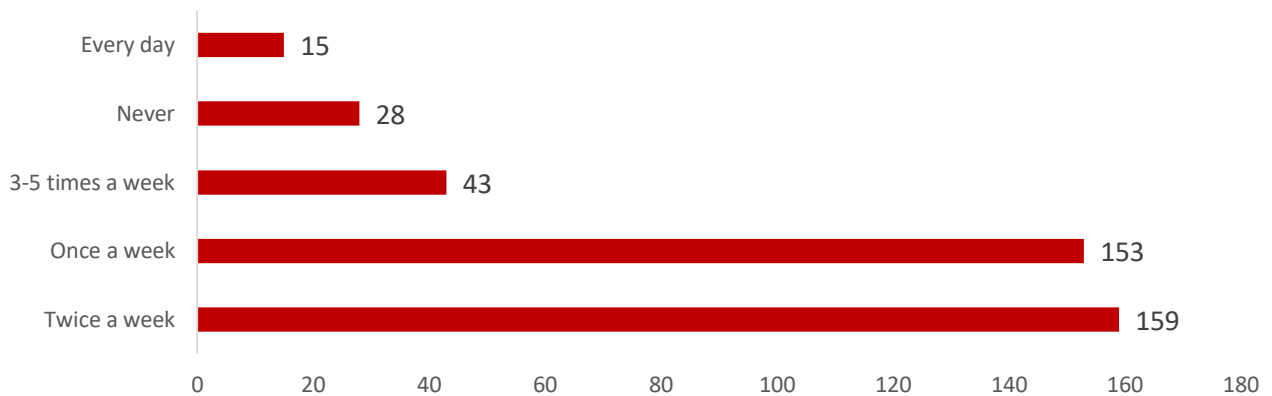


Figure 17 – Interviewee responses on frequency of humanitarian assistance in food and drinking water

3.1.2 Protection Considerations

Questions related to access to food, but also access to shops and financial means to buy food, have been analyzed to assess the level of possible protection risks to people of concern. Out of all interviewees, **17% reported having no access to stores to buy food** (90% of the respondents who reported not having access to stores were interviewed in USC). Among those who do access shops to buy food, **87% reported having no access to financial means** (not being able to access money through ATMs, banks, post office), while **15% reported earning money** to be able to provide food for themselves (66% of which in USC). Interviewees mostly reported they were obliged to beg for money or that they depended on charity (50%), while 27% reported helping local people for money, and some 20% reported they were selling tissues.

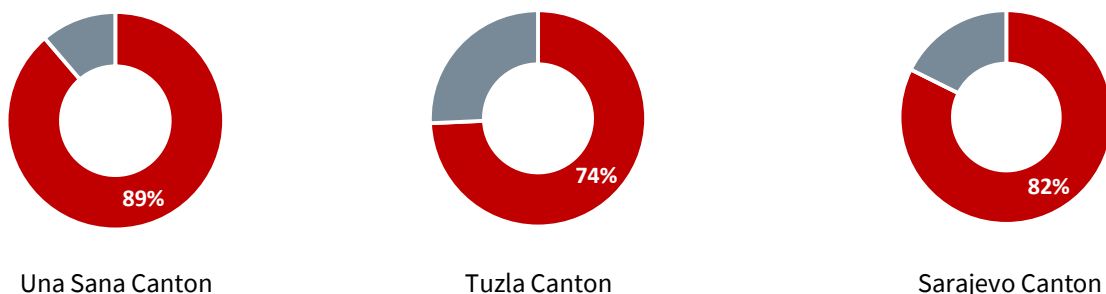


Figure 18 – Interviewees reporting having no access to financial means

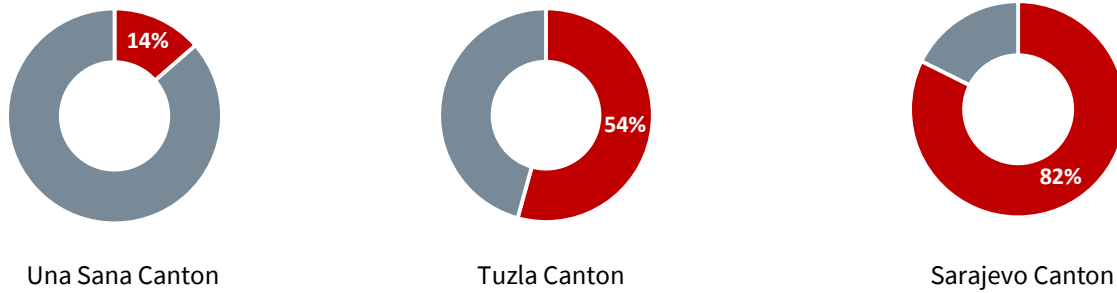


Figure 19 – Interviewees reporting having no access to stores and markets to buy food

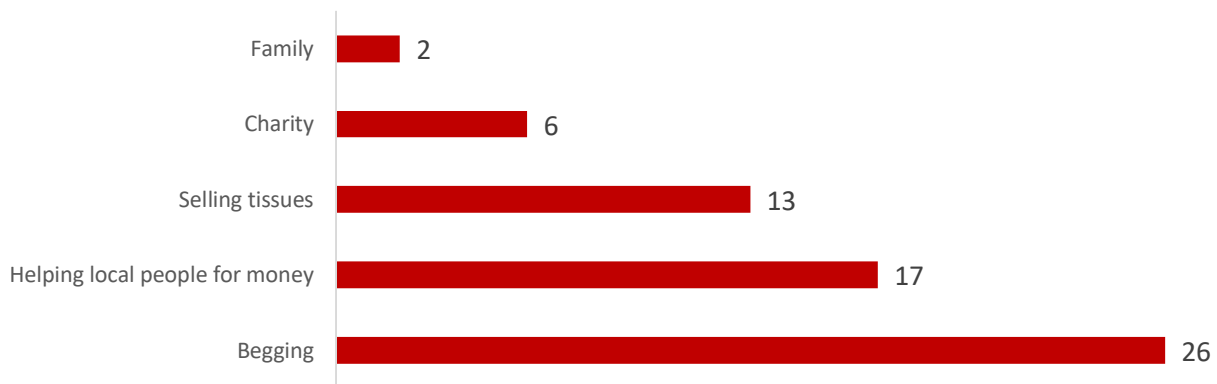


Figure 20 – Interviewee responses on primary sources of financial means

The majority of interviewees reported spending between 30 and 40 BAM per week on food (29%); 23% reported spending between 20 and 30 BAM per week, while **more than 21% reported spending less than 10 BAM per week on food (meaning less than 1.4 BAM/0.7 EUR per day).**⁶

3.2 Humanitarian engagement and capacity related to direct assistance

A total of ten (10) organizations responded to the survey: one UN agency, four INGOs, one LNGO, two Red Cross branches and two volunteer groups.

Partners responding to survey marked that they are mostly engaged in the following sectors of service delivery: (1) Shelter and NFIs – 5 organizations, (2) Health – 2 organizations, (3) general protection – 2 organizations and (4) child protection – 1 organization.

Out of ten organizations responding to the survey, only two (2) marked they are not directly engaged in service delivery in out-of-site locations. As reasons for not engaging directly into service delivery,

⁶ The latest (August) Consumer Basket in BiH shows that an average four-member family in BiH (parent with two children) spends minimum 815.31,78 BAM per month on food supplies, coming down to roughly 50 BAM per person/per week.

the respondents mentioned the following reasons: (1) other programmatic priorities, (2) sufficient number of actors engaged in distribution activities/avoiding duplication.



Figure 21 – Abandoned house near, Polje, Velika Kladusa, USC



Figure 22 – DRC Protection Outreach Team, USC, conducting the assessment

The eight (8) organizations engaged in direct service delivery, are working in the following areas of intervention⁷:

- Republika Srpska – 1 organization
- Herzegovina Neretva Canton – 1 organization
- Sarajevo Canton – 7 organizations
- Tuzla Canton – 4 organizations
- Una Sana Canton – 5 organizations

When it comes to frequency of service delivery, the responding organizations maintain high mobility/flexibility of the response. Besides working on regular/weekly schedules (4 organizations), ad hoc/emergency response is ensured (4 organizations responding in these situations), as well as response to individuals’ needs based on individual requests (4 organizations)⁸. The partners were asked to identify three main challenges that impact service delivery/distribution activities:



Figure 23 – Responses on main challenges to delivery of humanitarian assistance

⁷ One organization could mark working in more than one area of intervention

⁸ One organization could mark working in more than one area of intervention

Based on their knowledge and experience, the partners identified the following priorities in terms of basic needs in out-of-site locations (on a scoring scale of 1 to 5):

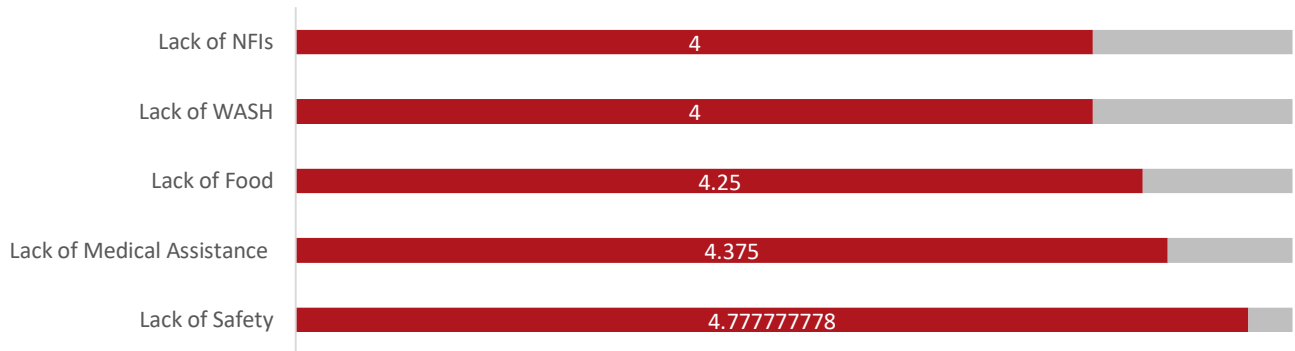


Figure 24 – Priorities - basic needs (scale of 1 to 5, with 5 representing the highest priority)

Based on their knowledge and experience, the partners identified the following protection risks faced by persons of concern to be addressed as a matter of priority:

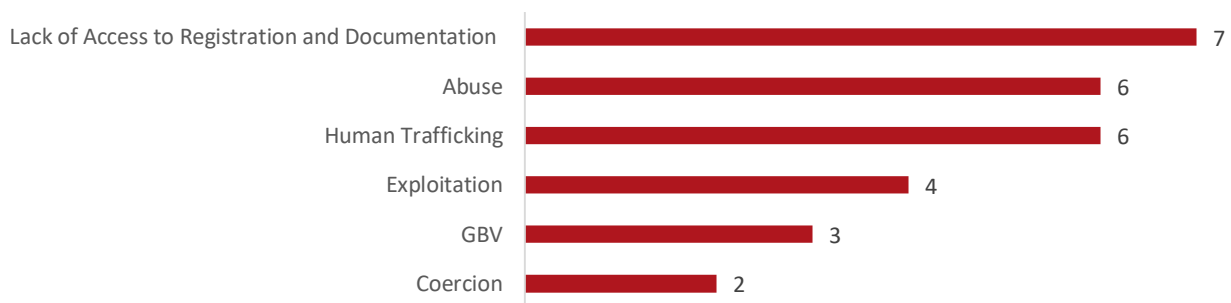


Figure 25 – Priorities – Protection risks faced by people of concern

Some of the immediate protection concerns related to UASC, but also families with children and other vulnerable categories in USC, have been highlighted by the latest UNICEF Rapid Assessment performed in USC.⁹

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. People of concern sleeping rough are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, due to a lack of available financial means and limited access to services (shops and markets).
2. The majority of PoCs sleeping out-of-site prepare food on their own (cook food), which creates additional health risks, knowing that in the majority of the locations where people of concern were interviewed, there was no access to clean drinking water.

⁹ Rapid Assessment of Outreach Activities in Una-Sana Canton, UNICEF, June 2020

3. Access to proper health care has been highlighted as one of the main unmet basic needs in these locations, both by people of concern and by other service providers operating in the out-of-site areas, and observed by the DRC Protection Outreach Teams; this especially in USC, where referral pathways to proper reception structures, as well as health institutions, are severely disrupted.
4. Lack of access to food and financial means could lead to people being more prone to negative coping strategies to earn money for food, and thus exposed to higher protection risks, including exploitation. When it comes to negative coping strategies, it is to be taken into consideration that in order to find any shelter, persons of concern are prone to utilizing private locations, such as abandoned or empty houses, which exposes them to negative reactions by the local population, but also could impact the service delivery.
5. Lack of access to registration and documentation has been highlighted as one of the key protection concerns by the partners on the ground, as well as by DRC Protection Outreach Teams. For newly arriving persons to the country, registration depends on access to reception centers, as well as on the capacities of the authorities to conduct it. However, with the lack of access to reception centers (mainly for single adult males and recently even for unregistered families in USC), registration remains a challenge. The situation directly affects assessments, including collecting age and gender disaggregated data on people of concern assisted out of sites (this is currently based only on the statements of beneficiaries).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The general lack of formal reception capacities, particularly in Tuzla Canton and Una Sana Canton, leads to thousands of people of concern looking for alternative shelter solutions, which are below standard and expose them to further protection and health risks. The **Outreach response in this sense is to be understood as an emergency (stop-gap measure), with more sustainable solutions required, namely increased formal reception capacities with formalized referral pathways.**
2. The Winter Contingency Plan (October 2020 – March 2021) for the outreach response is in the process of development at the National Outreach Working Group level. The most realistic scenario expected for the approaching winter months is that around 3,000 persons would remain staying and dwelling outside of formal reception structures. The worst case scenario envisages around 6,000 people remaining without proper reception and assistance (depending on the announced closure of reception centers in Una Sana Canton and no follow up action in terms of opening new reception sites). **Challenges remain in terms of securing basic/emergency assistance for persons out of sites throughout the winter (taking into consideration the current funding support for such a response). Highly depending on the volatile situation regarding reception facilities, the humanitarian response needs to reach people staying outside of**

reception facilities and in immediate need, which requires secured funding for such assistance, until a structured system of reception is ensured by the BiH authorities.

3. When it comes to food distribution, the current level of assistance ensures that people have at least minimum access to food supplies. Given that mostly dry food packages are delivered, and that the majority of people of concern prepare food on their own, despite the lack of hygienic conditions and access to drinking water, there is a **need for assessment of general health and nutrition levels among the population stranded and sleeping rough, particularly when it comes to vulnerable categories, such as children within families and UASCs.**
4. **Increased monitoring of general wellbeing and protection risks faced by persons stranded outside the reception facilities needs to be ensured in order to provide a full picture of the humanitarian situation and mixed migration context in BiH, primarily in order to map the gaps in the response and take on advocacy actions aimed at finding structures solutions.**