



MAY 2022

# HEALTH FACTSHEET



Photo: DRC

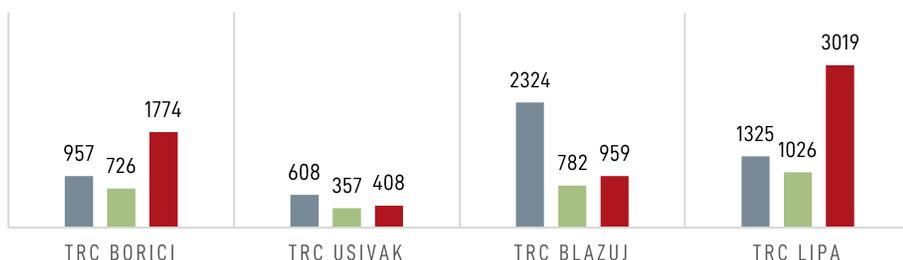


# 1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS & MONTHLY TRENDS

- ❖ DRC has ensured **5.214 medical examinations** and **2.891 medical interventions** in May 2022. Alongside this, there were **6.162 PoCs medically attended directly by DRC staff** inside TRCs in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Moreover, DRC facilitated 1.775 pediatric examinations & interventions within two pediatric units in TRCs Usivak and Borici.
- ❖ DRC has facilitated **45 referrals towards PHCs** and **48 referrals towards SHCs** for specialized healthcare and diagnostics. Moreover, **13 PoCs were hospitalized** in healthcare facilities.
- ❖ As a part of DRCs COVID-19 response, **PHC medical teams performed 3.278 medical screenings** in four reception centers. Furthermore, **1.672 PoCs were tested for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen tests**, out of which 5 came back positive. Additionally, two beneficiaries were tested for COVID-19 using the PCR test, both of which turned out to be negative. Due to a moderate clinical presentation of COVID-19, one PoC was hospitalized. All confirmed cases fully recovered. Additionally, 30 PoCs were vaccinated against COVID-19 in two reception centers.

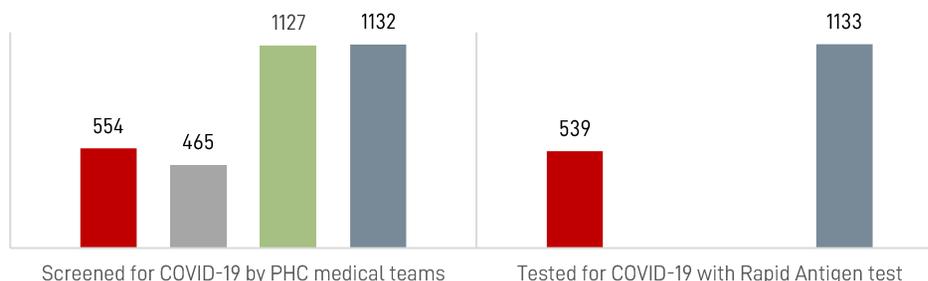
**DRCs HEALTH RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS**

■ Medical Examinations ■ Medical Interventions ■ Medically Attended

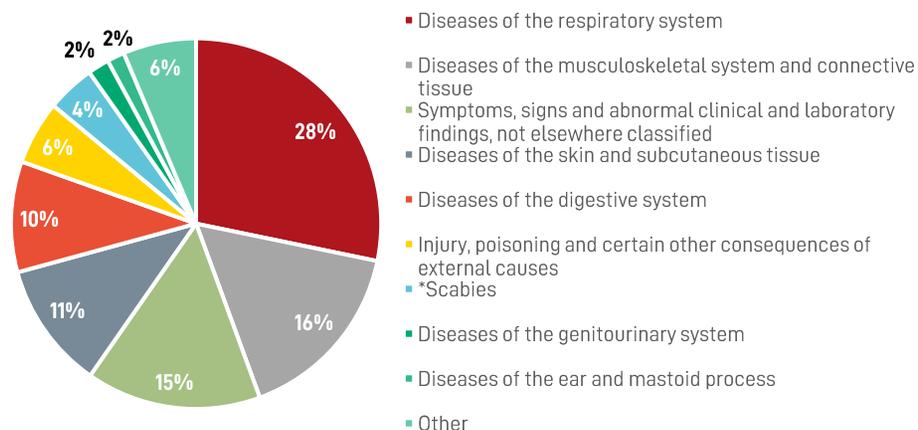


**DRCs COVID-19 RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS**

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



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



## OBSERVATIONS

- 🏥 Number of medical examinations have increased in 48% in comparison to April 2022, majorly due to number of new arrivals accommodated inside TRCs. Therefore, there is an equivalent incidence increase across all recorded morbidities, with highest increase being for musculoskeletal conditions (41% increase), compared to April 2022. This is in line with recorded higher number of new arrivals, reporting being exhausted due to extensive travel and sleeping rough.
- 🏥 To the contrary, there have been significant decrease in number of recorded injuries in 34% compared to April 2022. This is potentially due to decrease in number of pushbacks. Additionally, number of scabies cases have increased in only 16%, completely expected due to seasonal trends and wider access to sanitation.
- 🏥 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 surgeons and internists.
- 🏥 Hospitalizations were mainly due to injuries and acute conditions needing immediate surgical aid, infectious diseases and 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 related to health were received inside of TRCs (99%).
- ❖ **DRC has successfully addressed 5.138 incoming health related inquires/referrals** received from other organizations in May 2022.

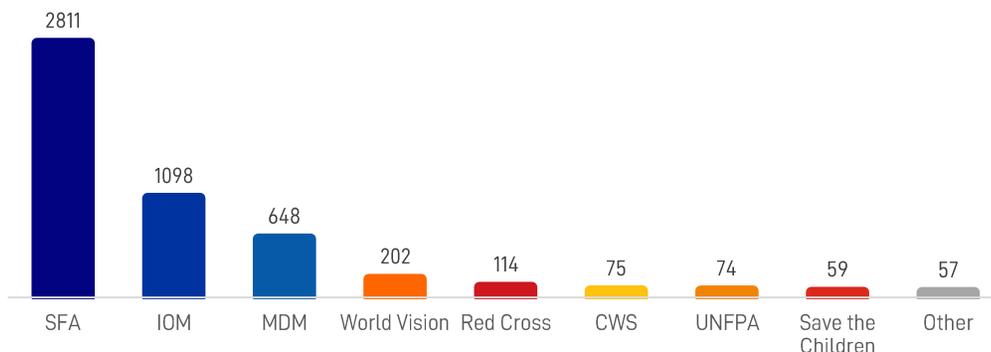
### INCOMING INQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

**4.879**  
Incoming healthcare referrals

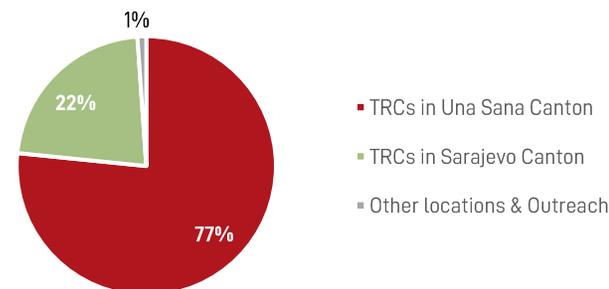
**190**  
Health related expertise provided

**69**  
Pediatric health expertise provided

#### HEALTH INQUIRIES/REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM:



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



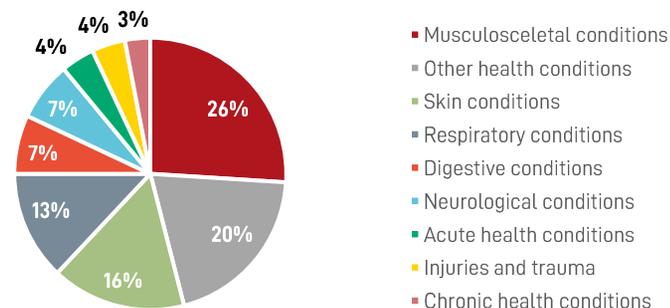
### DRC ASSISTANCES & REFERRALS IN OUT-OF-SITE AREAS

**826**  
Basic medical assistance provided

**58**  
Different locations

**102**  
Referrals for further support

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



#### OBSERVATIONS

- 🏠 Number of medical assistances in out-of-site locations have increased in 29%, compared to April 2022, which corresponds to higher number of reported individuals residing in these locations.
- 🏠 Significant increase in several conditions have been reported, namely related to musculoskeletal conditions in 90% and skin related conditions in 130%, compared to April 2022. This clearly corresponds to deteriorating health situation of individuals residing in these locations, where access to basic shelter, sanitation and timely health care is limited.
- 🏠 Most commonly reported musculoskeletal conditions were muscle pain in the legs due to prolonged walking, exhaustion and sleeping rough. When it comes to skin related conditions, namely PoCs suffered from skin infections, developed due to poor hygiene and untimely medical assistance.

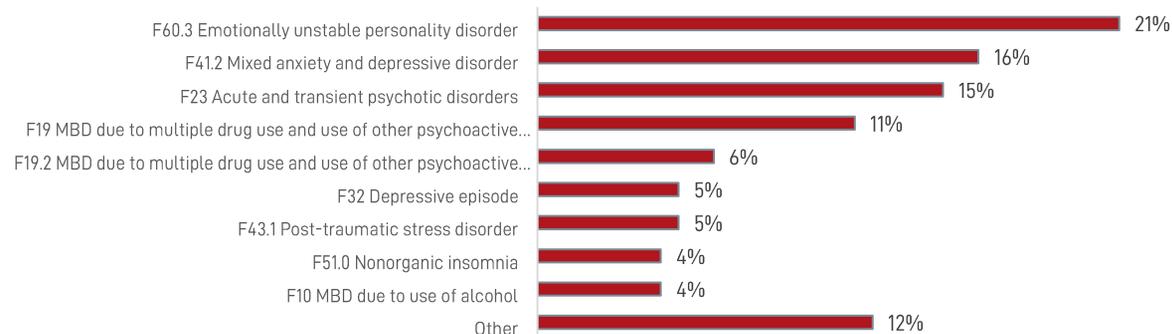
## 3. MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



### Médecins du Monde - MDM

- ❖ Médecins du Monde - MDM, assisted 403 new direct beneficiaries (378 adults, 25 children) 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 (15.53%), Sleeping problems (12.42%), Symptoms of psychoactive substance abuse (7.45%), Intense feeling of sadness (7.45%), Low energy/feeling tired/exhausted (4.97%), Intensive feeling of guilt/shame (4.97%), etc.
- ❖ In addition, 65 group empowerment and 31 psychoeducational sessions were organized combined with one Crisis Group Intervention in TRCs for a total of 1.079 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 109 psychiatric care consultations conducted for 74 individuals (8 female beneficiaries, 101 male beneficiaries). Main mental health issues being diagnosed were combined anxiety and depression syndrome, with PTSD, sleeping issues and substance abuse. There were 12 new referrals from MDM MHPSS teams towards Psychiatric Specialist.
- ❖ 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

- ❖ 22 individual psychological counselling sessions were provided within the Harm Reduction Program (HR) for 21 beneficiaries dealing with psychoactive substance abuse issues. In the reporting period, four new beneficiaries joined the HR activities in TRC Blažuj.
- ❖ Since beneficiaries showed more control over their behavior and addiction during the month of Ramadan, at the Protection & MHPSS meeting MDM staff suggested organizing religious lectures for HR program beneficiaries. At the end of the month, the Majlis announced that a lecture for HR program users would be held soon.
- ❖ One beneficiary in SC had a significant improvement in daily functioning, and the dose of therapy was reduced this month as well. The beneficiary is very motivated to return to the country of origin and MDM staff is still trying to maintain improvement of his mental status before his leaving.

### 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 1.158 PoCs** (1.069 adult men, 40 adult women, 11 girls and 38 boys). Red Cross teams provided **607 Psychological First Aid (PFA) consultations**, with **161 MHPSS consultations done by psychologist**. Moreover, 1.199 First Aid assistances (for PoCs with muscle pain and cramps, blisters, wounds, etc.) were provided, with 249 medical consultations performed by medical doctors.

## 4. THEMATIC FOCUS – INTERNATIONAL NURSE DAY

- ❖ Each year, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) leads the celebrations on International Nurses Day (IND), held on 12 May, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.
- ❖ This year theme for IND was ***Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in nursing and respect rights to secure global health.***
- ❖ The COVID-19 has exposed weaknesses caused by underinvestment in health systems around the world. The theme for IND 2022 demonstrates the need to invest in nursing, to build a resilient, highly qualified nursing workforce and to protect nurses' rights in order to transform health systems to meet the needs of individuals and communities now and into the future.
- ❖ ICN President Dr Pamela Cipriano said: *“Nurses have suffered tremendously throughout the pandemic. They have been unnecessarily exposed to the virus, faced attacks from the public, suffered from extreme workloads, and continue to be underpaid and undervalued. If governments continue to put off investing in the health workforce, it will be to the detriment of health systems everywhere. There is no health without a health workforce!”*
- ❖ The Danish Refugee Council in BiH has a team of 20 nurses, providing much-needed health care for people on the move on a daily basis.
- ❖ Since 2019, DRC Nurses provided services across 8 Temporary reception centers (Blazuj, Usivak, Bira, Borici, Sedra, Miral, Lipa and Salakovac).
- ❖ During that period, DRC Nurses provided 77.029 nursing care assistances, performed 58.861 medical interventions and facilitated 11.656 referrals for specialized health care and diagnostics to competent health facilities.
- ❖ Since the beginning of COVID-19 epidemic in BiH, DRC Nurses was on the frontline, fighting against the spread of COVID-19 and managing to maintain a stable sanitary-epidemiological condition inside TRCs. During the epidemic, DRC Nurses conducted over 106.034 COVID-19 screenings on symptoms and signs of COVID-19, facilitated over 1.936 PCR and 5.090 rapid antigen tests on COVID-19, and supported over 1.405 vaccinations against COVID-19.
- ❖ Daily, DRC Nurses attend over 200 PoCs, inside and outside TRCs.

*“From birth to death, non-communicable diseases to infection disease, mental health to chronic conditions, in hospitals, communities and homes, nurses provide accessible, affordable, person-centred, holistic care for all.”*

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 escort 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

Hector Carpintero, Country Director

[hector.carpintero@drc.ngo](mailto:hector.carpintero@drc.ngo)

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