



## ADDRESSING NEEDS OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

### IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sarajevo, 28 May 2021

## Background

Following the deterioration of situation with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in early 2021, CARE Austria and CARE Germany through ADH funding provided 144.897,5 Eur to address the needs of this vulnerable population from 1 February until 31 August 2021. The project has been designed to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers project in Una Sana and Tuzla Canton as well as those in other crisis areas through three partners organizations: Žene s Une (Una Sana Canton), Zemlja djece (Tuzla), Pomozi.ba (Una Sana Canton and Tuzla Canton) and women organization "Tragom tradicije" from Gračanica for sleeping bags production. Additionally, CARE International Balkans wants to further engage and advocate for a better response to the crisis situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina both nationally and internationally.<sup>1</sup>

## Project Objective

Contribute to increased integration of migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina, provide protection and aid to migrants and contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

## Project Implementation

### Preparatory and Coordination Activities

At the beginning of project implementation, CARE International Balkans organized introductory meetings with three main partners Pomozi.ba, Žene s Une and Zemlja djece and prepared contracts and briefing about CARE procedures. In addition to that, CARE collected information about measures implemented by partner organizations to address physical, sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation and is planning to organize an info session for all partners.

Activities for Pomozi.ba, Žene s Une and Zemlja djece were discussed and clarified with all partners prior to signing. Due to lack of capacities, Zemlja djece decided not to carry out integration activities. Simultaneously, CARE was approached by CURE Foundation to support two female asylum-seekers with internship activities in their organization. It was therefore decided to partially reallocate funds from Zemlja djece to CARE for CURE Foundation and/or other organizations with similar activities.

During the inception phase, CARE also held a meeting with partners to formulate how to evaluate the effectiveness of distribution of vouchers and non-food items (NFIs).

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<sup>1</sup> This report provides the overview of activities carried out by end of May. Not all activities will be visible in the financial report at this point in time.



## Activities Implemented

- 1. Distribution of vouchers**– CARE worked closely with partners to support their procurement process. Until today, the following was completed:

**Pomozi.ba** completed selection of articles and selection of vendors. Distribution commenced in Tuzla area and in Srebrenik, Lukavac, Gradačac and around 50 vouchers were distributed.<sup>2</sup>Since their targeted group are persons in informal settlements/squats, who are constantly hiding and trying to stay “off the radar”, finding and identifying those beneficiaries was challenging. The support in identifying beneficiaries came from domicile people, who were friendly and willing to help Pomozi.Ba’s field staff finding, identifying, and providing them with vouchers. **Zemlja djece** completed the procurement process and commenced the process of distribution on 12 May. So far, 33 vouchers have been distributed in Tuzla. For those that have received vouchers and backpacks with NFIs, there was a verbal-visual presentation on how to use vouchers with the support of translators in Arabic and Urdu in two safe houses and in drop-in center for asylum seekers and other migrants that currently live in Tuzla area. **Žene s Une** identified potential 200 beneficiaries (10 female and 192 male) and completed selection of vendors. The distribution is expected to begin in late May.

- 2. Winterization and prevention from COVID-19** – during the reporting period, partner organizations selected products to be included in NFI packages and selected vendors.

**Pomozi.ba** commenced the distribution on 27 May. The list of articles includes: small first aid kit: bandage, paracetamol, patch tape, emergency survival wrap, two pairs of socks, T-shirt, shampoo, multivitamin package, two pieces of underwear, wet tissues, toothpaste, toothbrush and a soap. **Zemlja djece** distributed 33 packages with NFIs. Out of 33 beneficiaries, 31 was male and 2 were female. Most beneficiaries (31) were between 18 – 50 years old while there were only two male beneficiaries under 18 years of age. The package consists of: rucksack, men socks and underwear, disinfection gel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, wet disinfection paper wipes for hands and body, ear cotton sticks, shaving foam, disposable razors, hand cream, face cream, wet toilette paper, wet paper, five disposable masks, showing gel, men roll-on deodorant, bandage. **Žene s Une** identified potential 193 beneficiaries (ten female and 183 male) and selected the vendor. Distribution is to take place in the last week of May. The content of the package includes: raincoat, men slippers, towel, T-shirt, shampoo, soap, disposable face masks.

Finally, CARE planned to sign the agreement with **Tragom Tradicije** from Gračanica to sew sleeping bags. However, since the organization offered a very high price for the sleeping bags (double the commercial price on the local market), CARE is discussing the possibility of sewing laundry bags for migrants, while sleeping bags will be purchased locally. The quotes are currently being compiled by CARE.

- 3. Medical assistance**<sup>3</sup> - CARE informed all partner organizations about the possibility to offer medical assistance and reached out to Danish Refugee Council and International Organization for Migration to inform them about the possibility to support medical needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Currently, Danish Refugee Council provides primary and

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<sup>2</sup> Distribution commenced the day after the report was submitted so the gender breakdown will be provided at the later stage.



secondary health care in transit reception centers while they provide only basic medical assistance in informal settlements/squats. As a result of this cooperation, CARE supported provision of a hearing aid for a young male migrant<sup>4</sup>, provided rehabilitation treatment in the hospital for another male migrant and leg prosthesis for an injured male migrant. In Zenica Dobož Canton, there is no health care provided for refugees and migrants living in squats. Through contact with local volunteers, CARE paid medical examination for two persons who required medical treatment.

- 4. Protection** – through its partners working in camps or daily centers, and particularly in squats, CARE offers psycho-social support to migrants and will work on helping them cope with daily challenges.

**Žene s Une** delivered trauma recovery workshops for youth at risk in Borici/Sedra on two occasions for 84 persons (12 female and 72 male) and 54 persons (13 female and 44 male). At the same time, this organization provided psycho-social support to 395 persons (20 female and 375 male), out of whom there were four persons with disabilities.

Simultaneously, **Zemlja djece** commenced activities for young men in emergencies. The number of attendees was only ten despite expressed initial interest and was most likely low as most persons were fasting during the month of Ramada. **Žene s Une** delivered trauma recovery workshops for youth at risk in Borici/Sedra on two occasions for 84 persons (12 female and 72 male) and 54 persons (13 female and 44 male). At the same time, this organization provided psycho-social support to 395 persons (20 female and 375 male), out of whom there were four persons with disabilities.

- 5. Supporting integration efforts** – for those migrants who have claimed asylum and wish to stay, CARE supports the assisted living for them and organization of language courses.

During the month of April, **Zemlja djece** commenced the Bosnian language course. Fourteen asylum-seekers applied for the language course. However, during the month of Ramadan, many persons were absent, and it is expected that the number of attendees would increase. The language course is held twice a week in the premises of drop-in center supported by the organization called Puz which provides all necessary resources. CARE and partner organizations will support language acquisition and will identify vocational training and job opportunities for these individuals. **Žene s Une** identified ten beneficiaries for assisted living (three female and one male) out of whom one person is with disabilities. **Pomozi.ba** identified families or persons willing to stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina in collaboration with DRC. Initial steps were taken and house itself was fully prepared, as well as plans for the Bosnian language classes. The first three men are expected to enter the house by the end of the last week of May.

In addition to this CARE, provided a small grant to **CURE Foundation** which is supporting two female asylum-seekers (one is the victim of gender-based violence) to carry out internship activities. CARE is covering costs of transport and basic necessities while women will also have the possibility to attend the courses about discrimination of women thus raising their awareness about their rights.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/dobri-ljudi-u-bih-pomogli-migrantu-abdalkarimu-prvi-put-u-zivotu-cuo-zvukove/210409070>



Finally, CARE selected two experts to conduct the situation assessment about the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The objective of the situation assessment is to inform potential CARE actions - planning and implementation of activities in the field particularly taking into consideration CARE priorities that include gender in emergencies and unaccompanied minors. Following the open call, CARE analyzed nine applications and organized interviews with three best offers from the financial and programmatic perspective. The contract with the two selected experts has been signed and the preparatory activities on methodology and dates for focus groups have already been initiated. CARE also obtained permissions from Service for Foreigners' Affairs for consultants to enter transition reception camps. The visits are planned on 2 June to Sedra in Una Sana Canton and on 8 June to the camp Blazuj in Sarajevo Canton. The visit to Zenica Doboje Canton is also planned.

## Other Activities

CARE International Balkans received one million single-use masks and 16.750 three-layered single use masks as a donation from companies from Alpstar, Havel Healthcare and Gebrüder Weiss through CARE Austria.<sup>5</sup> As a part of this initiative, CARE donated 100.000 masks to Service for Foreigners' Affairs dealing with migrants and refugees, who expressed their gratitude for the donation. In addition to that, CARE will distribute 5,000 single-use masks to every partner organization and 100 three-layered masks for further distribution.

## Changes in Project Implementation

There are no significant delays in project implementation. The only delay is related to **Tragom Tradicije** and procurement and distribution of sleeping bags. It was expected that the organization would sew the bags – however, due to the delays in closing the previous grant agreement, CARE decided to purchase sleeping bags locally and to still approve a small-grant contract to Tragom Tradicije to prepare and sew laundry bags.

In addition to that, CARE reallocated the funds for integration from Zemlja djece (6,000 Eur from CARE AUT funds) and used them to sign the contract with CURE foundation. These funds will also be used to cover additional expenditures for the situation assessment and to pay storage fee for masks.

## Press Coverage

1. <https://care-balkan.org/care-international-balkans-has-commenced-implementation-of-the-project-to-address-needs-of-refugees-migrants-and-asylum-seekers-in-bih/>
2. <https://care-balkan.org/the-foundation-cure-and-care-international-balkans-supports-the-integration-in-bih-society-of-migrantrefugee-women-and-girls/>
3. [https://fondacijacure.org/en/2021/04/6786/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=the-foundation-cure-and-care-international-balkans-supports-the-integration-in-bih-society-of-migrantrefugee-women-and-girls](https://fondacijacure.org/en/2021/04/6786/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=the-foundation-cure-and-care-international-balkans-supports-the-integration-in-bih-society-of-migrantrefugee-women-and-girls)

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<sup>5</sup> <https://care-balkan.org/care-austria-and-care-international-balkans-donated-1015650-protective-masks-to-bih/>



4. <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/dobri-ljudi-u-bih-pomogli-migrantu-abdalkarimu-prvi-put-u-zivotu-cuo-zvukove/210409070>
5. [https://care-balkan.org/care-austria-and-care-international-balkans-donated-1015650-protective-masks-to-bih/Klix hearing aid](https://care-balkan.org/care-austria-and-care-international-balkans-donated-1015650-protective-masks-to-bih/Klix%20hearing%20aid)

### Next Steps

- Monitoring of distribution
- Finalization of the situation assessment
- Finalization of all activities by partner organizations
- Liaison with other international and local organizations and NGOs.