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Monthly Report

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Foreword

Dear readers,

Today we would like to present the SOS Bihac Monthly Report for February 2022. This month we were again able to make life a little easier for numerous people and provide them with clothing, food, medicine and other relief supplies. This was only possible with the help of the donors and cooperation partners of SOS Bihac. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their great support, without which SOS Bihac would not have been able to guarantee the services mentioned in the following chapters.

SOS Bihac sees this as a sign of the trust of the international donors and partners and is doing everything possible to continue to provide the best possible services in all areas and to act 100% transparently. Because in addition to the help that we offer, the trust of donors and partners has top priority.

Sincerely,

SOS Bihac Team

Refugees

In the last few days there has been an influx of new refugees, mostly from Cuba, Western Sahara and generally all over Africa. They can usually be found in forests or on roads and are usually in a precarious emergency.

We from the SOS team give them handy bags with food and hygiene items and offer them medical care if they need it. Because of the long walks, the legs usually suffer a lot and have to be treated professionally by our doctors. The SOS house, which was made available to us by the Aachener Netzwerk, offers some of them a warm place to stay, the opportunity to shower and warm food until further shelter options can be offered to them.



Supply of locals

People in need

In addition to refugees and migrants, the locals often lack basic supplies. Many of them lack water, food, electricity, firewood or other essentials. It often affects seriously ill people or entire families with children whose lives do not even offer the most basic basics. This leads to physical as well as psychological problems. Both the police and the social service are usually overwhelmed with the many cases and cannot find a solution. Therefore, we are asked by them for help and try to provide the needy people with the essentials. Several times a week we deliver aid packages filled with food and hygiene items, but also with water, medicine and firewood to local people in need. Because especially in winter, the cold is an additional burden that we want to take away from them.

Deliveries are made with the transporter provided by us from the Aachener Netzwerk.



Care for injured people in the city center

But we are also asked for help in other ways. Sporting events in downtown Bihac can occasionally result in injuries. Since the local ambulance is usually overwhelmed and working at full capacity, we are also on duty here to give the affected person medical treatment.



Supply of schools

Since masks are compulsory in schools due to Covid-19 and many cannot afford the expensive masks, we from the SOS Bihac team have supplied a secondary school with sufficient masks, but also with hygiene articles and disinfectants. The transporter from Aachener Netzwerk was also used here.



Volunteers

Again and again we receive messages from people from Germany, Austria, Italy, etc. who have become aware of the situation in Bosnia through media reports or on social media platforms and would like to help on site or gain a personal impression. We appreciate this willingness to help and give them the opportunity to accompany and, if necessary, support us in our work, whether it is distributing aid packages, unloading donations or other activities.

SOS House

With the help of the Aachener Netzwerk and the fundraising campaign, the project with the SOS Bihac headquarters was made possible. The house is intended for refugees as well as local people in need as short-term accommodation until another solution is found for them. This month we have once again prepared the individual rooms for possible emergencies. In other words, beds made, towels and toiletries provided, and all rooms vacuumed/cleaned and the food supplies in the kitchen replenished.



Trees

However, regular maintenance is not only required within the SOS house. There are 270 trees on the property, including apple, pear, cherry and hazelnut trees, which we had to prepare this month for the coming summer. A skilled gardener showed some of the SOS Bihac team how to properly trim/prune the branches to allow the trees to get enough light and thereby increase crop yields.

The experience gained will also be used in the upcoming farming project "Land-of-Hope" farm can be of great use and use. Since the trees had already reached a good size, the concrete stakes that had been used to support the young trees could also be removed. These can also be reused for the aforementioned project.

The harvest will benefit those in need.



Donate

In order to be able to provide the needy people in our area with sufficient care, we depend on donations. We receive these from helpful private individuals in the form of monetary or material donations, as well as from our cooperation partners in various countries.

Food donation from „Grenzenlose Hilfe Kremsmünster“

Brigitte Holzener from the organization „Grenzenlose Hilfe Kremsmünster“ from Oberösterreich was there to support SOS Bihac with a generous food donation. Only regional products were bought in order to boost the Bosnian economy. The food received, including flour, oil, sugar and salt, is distributed by us to those in need.



Big delivery from Energia i Sorissi from Italy

Also this month we were supplied by our cooperation partner Energia i Sorissi with relief supplies, including clothing, food and hygiene items. The amount of this donation was several tons, which filled our warehouse again and can benefit numerous people.



Donate from Karawane der Menschlichkeit

We received a generous donation of clothing and other supplies from the organization „Karawane der Menschlichkeit“. In addition to the donation, they were able to gain an insight into the difficult situation of some people during the few days they were there.

In the "jungle", i.e. in wild camps in Bosnia near the Croatian border, they met refugees together with the SOS Bihac Team. These lived under tarpaulins or in ruins under unimaginable circumstances. Some of the refugees said that the "game", i.e. the attempt to cross the border, had been going on for two years and some had tried it for the 36th time. If they were caught doing so, it was not uncommon for them to be beaten or have their shoes taken away.



19. delivery Space-Eye

In addition to chocolate, Space-Eye supplied us with a power generator and some garden tools for the upcoming Land of Hope project in Bihac.

We also received 30 fully equipped PCs that will be used in schools. It is planned to equip a class with these PC's where children with illnesses such as epilepsy can get to know working on the computer and thus be taught new skills and programs. This can be of great use to them for their further future.



Current

„Land of Hope“-Farm

The start of an organic farm by refugees for refugees is planned for spring 2022.

Thousands of refugees live in extremely precarious conditions in Bihac. They live in forests, ruins or tents. NGOs like SOS Bihac and Space-Eye take care of them at the borders to the EU and provide them with food, clothing and medicine.

The planned project aims to convert land already leased from SOS Bihac into an organic farm and develop it with outdoor cultivation and greenhouses. In this way, refugees receive their own organic agriculture and thus have the opportunity to create a new and, above all, better livelihood. The harvested vegetables are to be used for self-sufficiency, for humanitarian aid and for sale.