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Monthly Report

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Foreword

Dear readers,

Today we would like to present the monthly report for April 2022 from SOS Bihac. 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

Medical interventions

24/7 deployments

The most significant and costly service of SOS Bihac are the 24/7 deployments dedicated to medical interventions. An SOS emergency number was set up for this purpose, so we can be reached at any time. Since the local ambulance is usually overwhelmed and overworked, we are often called to help those affected to undergo medical treatment.

The team is equipped for all weather conditions and terrain, i.e. operations can be carried out both in the flat and in the mountains, even in rain and snow. The medical teams are always ready and responding to any medical emergency call.

In addition, the ambulance service of the city of Bihac calls us for help in the event of serious traffic accidents or to carry out certain ambulances. Occasionally, medical home visits are made to socially disadvantaged residents.



Daily patrols

When fleeing to a safe country, migrants are usually pushed back at the borders, which is referred to as so-called "pushbacks". Apart from that, in addition to the long footpaths, hunger, thirst and the changing weather, they are often the target of looters and bandits.

In many cases, this also leads to serious injuries that have to be treated by our doctors on site. Depending on the degree of injury, those affected are then taken to a local hospital or taken to the SOS house.

The SOS house offers refugees and local people in need short-term accommodation until another solution is found for them. In addition to any further medical care, those affected receive warm food and the opportunity to wash and recover from the exertion.

The house is equipped with 19 beds (plus 6 emergency beds and mattresses), a kitchen and washing facilities including towels and toiletries, which means that we can also spontaneously accommodate a larger number of people.

All refugees will be taken to Camp Lipa after appropriate treatment and recovery.



Children in „The Game“

Unfortunately, The Game doesn't only affect adults, which is why we keep seeing toddlers on the streets hoping for a better life. Children in particular suffer from the hardships of fleeing and need adequate care. The SOS team prepared several handy bags of baby food and other groceries, which were distributed to the children and their families along with water.



Laundry service for refugees

Daily the laundry (clothes, blankets and other necessities) of the refugees in Camp Lipa and washed, dried and then driven back to the refugees by our hard-working SOS team member Šeyla in the laundry in Bihac.

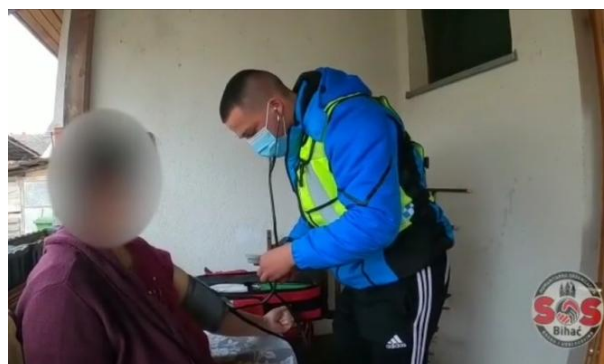
The aim of SOS Bihac is to enable all refugees to wear clean clothes in order to minimize the spread of skin diseases.

Local help

Distribution of aid packages

As every month, aid packages filled with essential food and hygiene items are distributed to the locals. Some of them live in run-down houses on the subsistence level, which is why every aid package is a small relief.

We talk to them about their problems and in the event of health problems, our doctor can provide care directly on site.



Flour is one of the most important staple foods, which we distribute with every aid package. We were therefore very happy about the generous flour donation from the Kulenovic family from the area and would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

We distributed this with other relief supplies to families with children with special needs, as well as to old and disabled people in the month of Ramadan and hope that we have made the difficult situation easier for them.

We sent half of the donated flour to Merhamet Bihac.

We would also like to thank the Kostelski Buk Hotel, which helped finance the supply of food, and everyone who supports us in whatever form.



House collapse

This month saw an increase in strong storms, some of which caused severe damage. A small house collapsed about 40 minutes away from Bihac. There were no people in the house at the time, so the only damage was property. Our help is not only limited to medical care or the distribution of essential supplies, but we also help local people when such disasters happen to them.

We actively helped to disassemble the collapsed house into its individual parts. Everything that was spared from the storm and could still be used, such as roof panels, slats, etc., was carefully removed and stored for further use. The rest had to be disposed of accordingly.

Bosanska Krupa

We delivered some food and clothing donations to the Social Work Appeal Center in Bosanska Krupa, which were passed on to the needy from that place.

The delivery was again made with the transporter sponsored by Aachener Netzwerk.



Clothing and hygiene donation to a prison

Everyone has basic needs that need to be met. In addition to food, this also includes clothing and hygiene, which is why we sent a van filled with clothing and hygiene items to a nearby prison.



Hospital visit

We visited a sick little girl in the hospital and brought her all the necessities of food and clothing.

We take care of those girls who grow up in vulnerable families and do not have enough to eat due to poor economic and social conditions and are vulnerable to most diseases.



Football training

In the month of April 8-10 joint events of our football academy and the children from Boric took place. There were about 15 children from Boric at the training, who were just as accepted by our children as their colleagues from the club. The training was great fun for everyone.



Donate

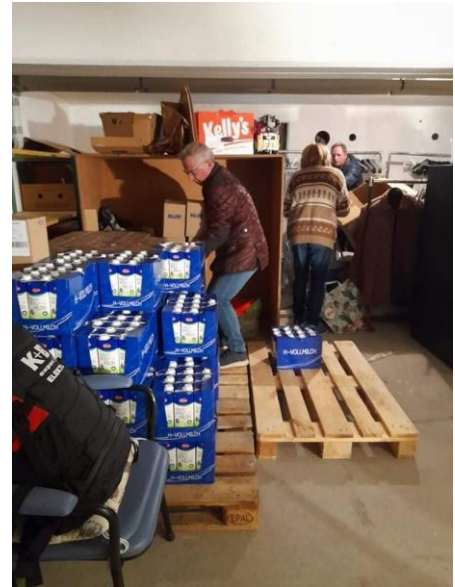
Orthopedic aids from the café-pizzeria “City”

It is not the first time that we received support from the “City” café-pizzeria in Bihac. They donated us valuable orthopedic aids, for which we are very grateful.



Another donation from Brigitte Holzinger

As in the previous months, in April we received an extensive donation from the organization "Grenzenlose Help Kremsmünster" from Austria. This time, in addition to baby food and milk, we also received 3 prams, which we gratefully accepted.



River cleaning „Eco regata“

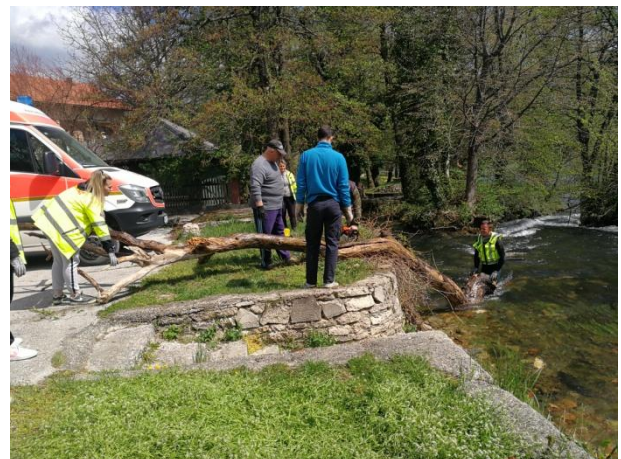
We also care about the environment, which is why this year, with the help of friends and locals, we cleaned up the section of the waterfall on the Una River in Ripac. On April 16, 2022, the SOS team was on site and started cleaning up the riverbank. Large and small branches were burned.



Two other helpers climbed into the river to remove the mountain of branches that had accumulated en masse. Other waste that got stuck was packed in bags.



In addition to small branches, there were also large tree trunks, which meant that the river could not flow unhindered and had to find its way around the hill of branches. A rope was attached to the large tree trunks so that a tractor could pull most of them out. When they reached the shore, the thick logs were cut up by hand with a chainsaw and then pulled out.



The small branches could be easily detached with a hook and washed away by the river current. At one point the branches were removed with a fire.



After a total of 5 hours of work, the result was impressive.

Previously



Afterward



Land of Hope Farm – Space Eye

The “Land of Hope” farm project with our cooperation partner Space Eye is in full swing. Some progress has been made within the last few weeks, which is why the cultivation of the first vegetable plants is not long in coming.

Clear the land

The farmland is full of many small bushes and shrubs, most of which have sharp thorns. In order to be able to build the greenhouses, the country had to be freed from it. This requires a lot of work, but could be done quickly with hard-working hands.



Uncovering oft he water sources

Several water veins could already be seen on the property in March, which is why we have now uncovered them manually. In addition, the planned fence was subsequently moved by approx. 10 meters in order to be able to use another water source within the border.



The cut branches are burned in a fire.



Excavation work for wells

The further excavation work was carried out with an excavator, which dug correspondingly deep holes at the locations of the water veins. Within minutes, the holes were filled with clear, fresh water.

The water will later be used to irrigate the planned vegetable crops.



Access road

The access road to the land was once again cleared of interfering branches so that larger transporters, tractors and trucks can also find access. This was necessary because, in addition to materials for concreting, containers also had to be delivered.



In addition, the road was covered with a layer of sand or fine gravel. Another layer of coarse-grained gravel should be placed on top, which will ensure better access.



Concreting the posts for the fence

When all the holes for the planned fence had been dug and the posts placed, the concreting could begin. First the concrete was mixed. Consistency was important here. This could not be too liquid so that the posts had enough stability during the drying process.



However, before the concrete could be poured, the length of the pile had to be measured again and the exact position had to be aligned so that a straight line with piles of the same height was created. If necessary, the hole was subsequently adjusted for this. After that, the holes could be filled up to the brim with the concrete mix. At the end, a water level was used to check.



On the one hand, the fence should mark the border, but on the other hand it should also keep animals such as wild boar away from the property, which could damage the valuable vegetable plants.



Felling trees

Where the greenhouses are to be erected, there were three small trees that had to be felled to create the necessary space. The tree stumps were dug up by hand as much as possible. An excavator did the rest of the work, pulling out the stumps.



Plow the land

After most of the bushes and trees had been removed, a tractor could start plowing the land. On the one hand, the area on which the greenhouses are to be erected was processed. The soil is loosened and leveled by plowing.



On the other hand, another field was plowed on which the cultivation of potatoes is planned. Inside there were some large stones that the team had to remove from the field by hand. Then the field should be plowed again.



Fence removal

On the property there was a fence made of various materials (wire mesh, barbed wire, wood, etc.), which had to be removed for our further plans.



A large part of the fence consisted of an old barbed wire fence, which is why careful work was needed.



After about two days of work, most of the fence could be removed. The thick wooden posts will be dug out and removed in the coming days.



Quads

The SOS Bihac team has quads available, which were then from the sports club of Zlatan Kovacevic were taken over. These are used by the team to get to the farmland even more easily. In addition, they are very fuel-efficient, which means that costs can be minimized.



Container

For work on land, more and more utensils such as tools, etc. are gradually needed. In order not to have to laboriously transport these from the SOS house to the country every day, we placed two containers on the property, where it is now possible to store the materials required for agriculture directly on site.

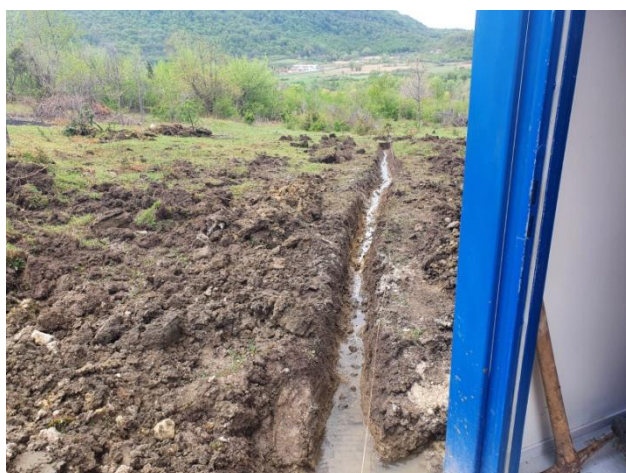
First, an area was leveled with an excavator and sprinkled with gravel. The containers could then be placed on concrete blocks.



In addition, further containers are planned, which should not only be used for storage purposes, but should also offer a place of retreat and a washing and toilet facility for the team.



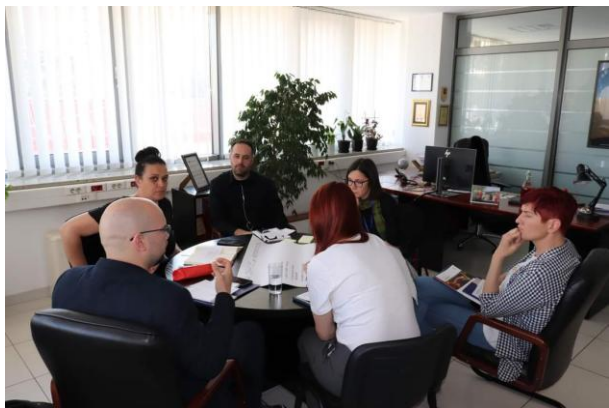
To prevent rainwater from collecting on the level below the containers and draining away, it was also necessary to dig a few meters long channel leading down from the elevation on which the containers stand.



Current

Informal consultation of 25 international organizations

We participated in the informal consultation of 25 international organizations to share information on the situation through the work and experiences of the humanitarian organization SOS Bihac. We thank the organizer for the invitation and hope that the meeting will contribute to better cooperation between the organizations.



Migration Conference 2022

SOS Bihać attended a conference that brought together key stakeholders dealing with irregular and mixed migration, emigration and humanitarian work on the ground, including international organizations, domestic public institutions and civil society organizations.

More than a hundred participants from around the world attended the conference, including Brazil, Colombia, the United States, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland, Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the conference is to map the current situation on the ground and the extent of scientific knowledge, which will lead to the formation of a sectoral alliance for better migration management.

"One of the goals of the conference is to support the academic community in addressing irregular and mixed migration. The participation of important national and international academics and practitioners increases the importance of the conference and confirms its relevance considering current and expected migration flows, starting with irregular migration, but also emigration and brain drain, which is particularly interesting for our country and the region," said Prof. Dr. Alija Kožljak, director of the Center for Social Research at Burch International University and co-chair of the Conference on Migration.

The conference was opened by the rector of the International Burch University, Prof. Dr. Mersid Poturak, who paid special attention to the departure of young people from Bosnia and the importance of solving this problem. The conference also aims to support our country in fulfilling the international obligations resulting from various international agreements and the Global Compact on Migration. The Global Compact on Migration sets out 23 goals to ensure *"safe, orderly and regular" migration, including protecting migrants from exploitation and human rights abuses.*"

In her introductory speech, Laura Lungarotti, Head of the IOM Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasized the importance of this conference for the IOM, as it looks at migration from a societal perspective and not just as a security and humanitarian issue that needs solutions through a comprehensive vision of migration be searched. "In Bosnia and Herzegovina the focus is on migrants in transit, but we also need to focus on those leaving this country. The fourth year of implementation of the Global Compact on Migration and I am glad that on this occasion we will gather in New York and that representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be there".

"Knowledge and experience on how to deal with migration already exist, but it is fragmented and depends on the country. Sharing of this knowledge is needed and this conference is a great platform for such sharing and advancement. I believe it will provide additional insights and influence on future policies and I think that Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina are the right place for such a conference," said Dr. Elmir Camić, head of the delegation of the International Committee of Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ambassador of Switzerland in BiH, Daniel Hunn, the Ambassador of Greece in BiH, Dimitrios Papandreou, Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Nikolić, Minister of Science, Higher Education and Youth of KS and Academician Prof. Dr. Mirko Pejanović, Vice President of the BiH Academy of Sciences and Arts.

After the introductory speeches, a cooperation agreement between Burch International University and IOM was ceremoniously signed and the conference continued with a series of panels featuring key speakers. The recommendations, suggestions and conclusions of the panellists will be analyzed and systematized, and on the basis of them a policy proposal will be made and presented to key stakeholders, including international organizations, national public institutions and civil society

organizations. By implementing these recommendations, institutions will be able to improve migration management and respond appropriately to the challenges of this phenomenon.

The organizers of the Migration Conference 2022 are the Center for Social Research at Burch International and the Center for Competences for Humanitarian Negotiation (Geneva, Switzerland) with partners: OSCE Mission to BiH, IOM Mission to BiH, EU Delegation to BiH, Swiss Embassy in BiH, Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Foreign Policy Initiative, Harvard Kennedy

