

JULY 2022

# HEALTH FACTSHEET



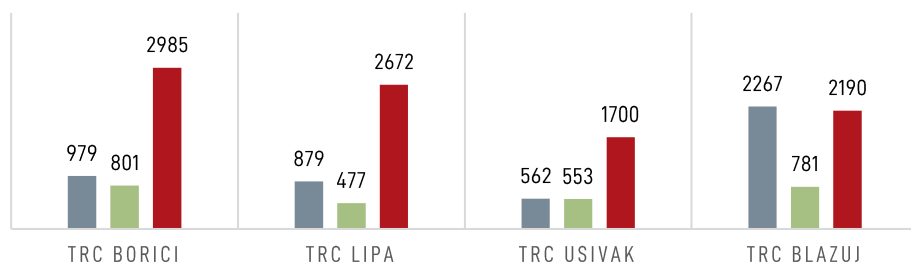
Photo: Info session on Monkeypox, DRC

# 1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS & MONTHLY TRENDS

- ❖ DRC has ensured **4.687 medical examinations** and **2.612 medical interventions** in July 2022. Alongside this, there were **9.547 PoCs medically attended directly by DRC staff** inside TRCs in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Moreover, DRC facilitated 1.713 pediatric examinations & interventions within two pediatric units in TRCs Usivak and Borici.
- ❖ DRC has facilitated **45 referrals towards PHCs** and **46 referrals towards SHCs** for specialized healthcare and diagnostics. Moreover, **3 PoCs were hospitalized** in healthcare facilities.
- ❖ As a part of DRCs COVID-19 response, **PHC medical teams performed 3.274 medical screenings** in four reception centers. Furthermore, **684 PoCs were tested for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen tests**, out of which 43 came back positive. Additionally, one beneficiary was tested for COVID-19 using the PCR test, which turned out to be positive.

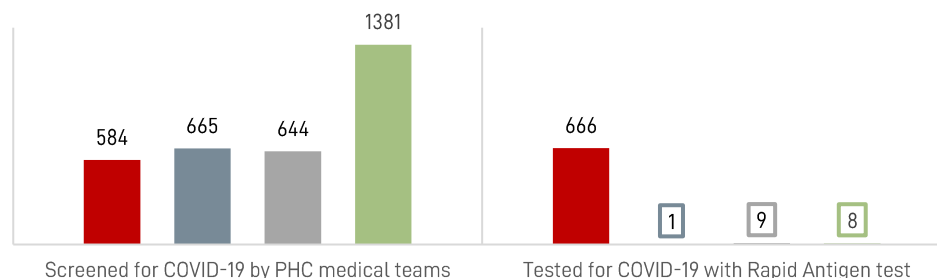
**DRCs HEALTH RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS**

■ Medical Examinations ■ Medical Interventions ■ Medically Attended

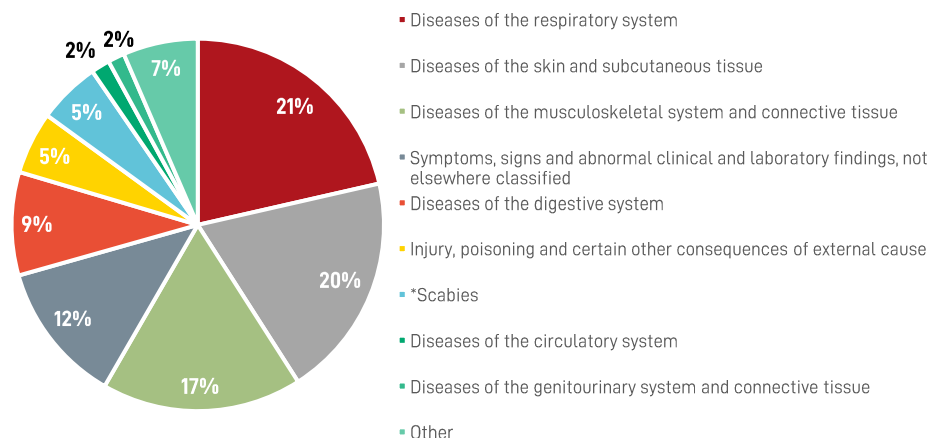


**DRCs COVID-19 RESPONSE INSIDE TEMPORARY RECEPTION CENTERS**

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



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



## OBSERVATIONS

- 🏥 Number of medical examinations have decreased in 14% in comparison to June 2022, which corresponds to lower number of PoCs residing inside the centers, as well as lower numbers of new arrivals to the country. Significant incidence decrease of respiratory diseases was recorded, up to 32%, which was expected due to seasonal trends.
- 🏥 However, significant incidence increase was recorded for skin diseases of up to 15%, as well as musculoskeletal diseases of up to 13%, which corresponds to the higher number of PoCs spending significant time outside of the centers in unsanitary conditions and extreme weather, moving constantly across the country.
- 🏥 On the account of PHC referrals for laboratory services, factoring in the reestablished Dentistry unit in TRC Blazuj with the capacity to attend up to 20 PoCs per week, the numbers of referrals towards PHCs decreased, and are now being directed towards the aforementioned Dentistry unit. Moreover, SHC referrals were done for specialists' examinations, namely orthopedic and general surgeons that attended accidental injuries.
- 🏥 Beneficiaries were mainly hospitalized due to acute conditions needing immediate medical aid, namely communicable diseases.

## 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 were received inside of TRCs (98%).
- ❖ **DRC has successfully addressed 3.803 incoming health related inquires/referrals** received from other organizations in July 2022.

### INCOMING INQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

**3.318**

Incoming healthcare referrals

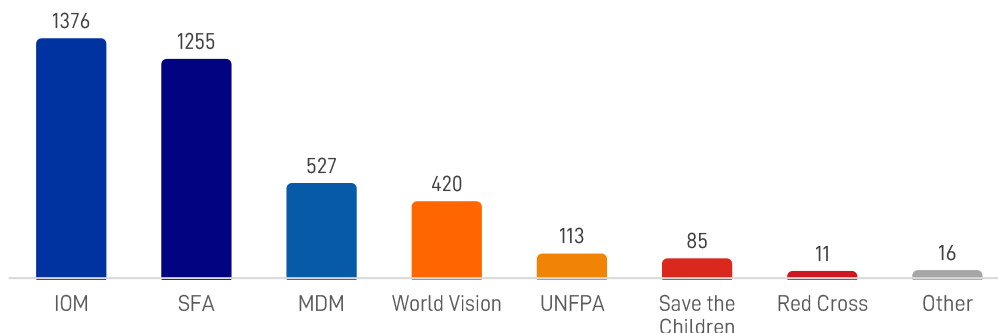
**476**

Health related expertise provided

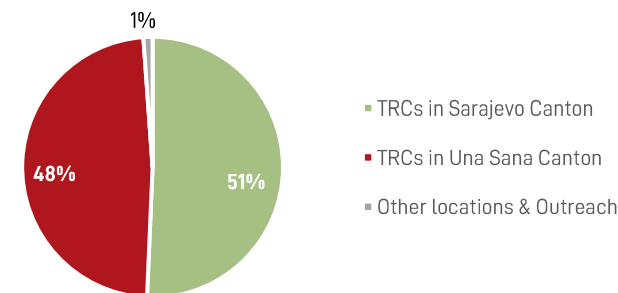
**9**

Pediatric health expertise provided

#### HEALTH INQUIRIES/REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM:



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



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

**369**

Basic medical assistance provided

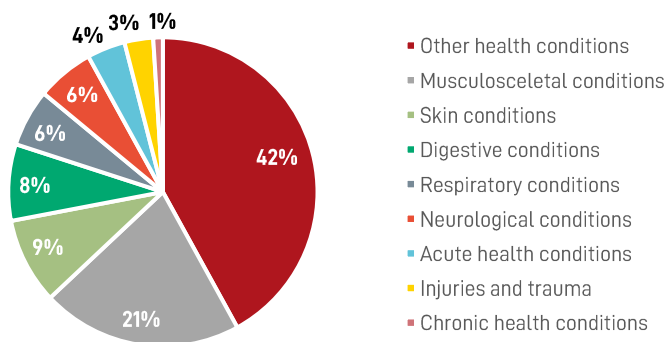
**13**

Different locations

**15**

Referrals for further support

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



#### OBSERVATIONS

- 🏠 Number of medical assistances in out-of-site locations have increased in 35%, compared to June 2022, which corresponds to PoCs spending more time in informal settlements.
- 🏠 There has been no significant change in reported health conditions, with exemption of reported musculoskeletal concerns, which records increasing trend for 2 consecutive months. This clearly corresponds to the fact that individuals residing in these locations are moving often to different locations, where access to proper accommodation and continuous healthcare is available.

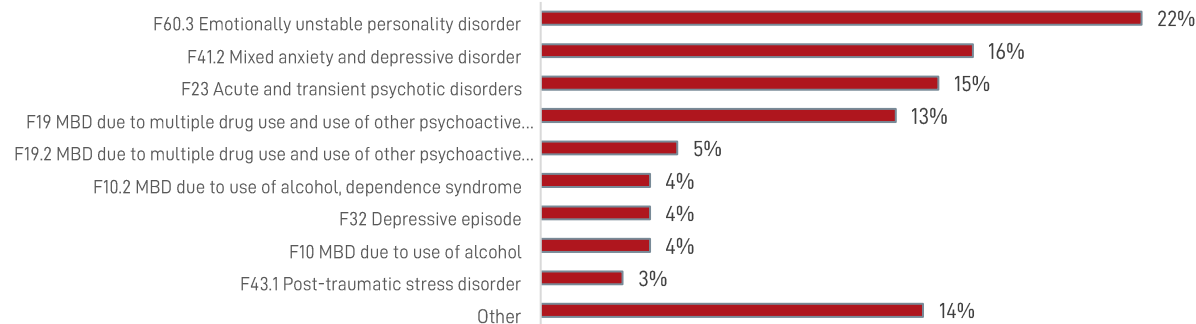


## 3. MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### Médecins du Monde - MDM

- ❖ Médecins du Monde - MDM, assisted 508 new direct beneficiaries residing in TRCs in Una- Sana Canton and Canton Sarajevo. A total of 289 individual psychological counselling sessions were conducted. Most frequently reported psychological symptoms include: Feeling nervous, restless or tense (8%), Sleeping problems (8%), Feeling irritable/angry (5%), Intense feeling of sadness (5%), Low energy/feeling tired/exhausted (4%), etc.
- ❖ In addition, group empowerment and psychoeducational sessions were organized in TRCs for a total of 819 participants. Psychoeducational group sessions included topics of Depression and symptoms of depression, stress management, emotional awareness, communication skills, mental health awareness and prevention of substance use.
- ❖ MDM Psychiatric Specialists provided regular/follow-up psychiatric consultations in all 4 TRCs, with total of 77 psychiatric care consultations conducted for 61 individuals (8 female beneficiaries and 53 male beneficiaries). There were 17 new referrals from MDM MHPSS teams towards Psychiatric Specialists.

### MOST FREQUENT PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS



- ❖ MDM engaged a cultural mediator for French language and approaching more French-speaking beneficiaries. This resulted in a great response to our group activities people from Burundi who now represent a bigger community in TRCs.
- ❖ The number of beneficiaries on Harm Reduction programme (HR) is decreased, which helped our clinical team to provide better support and monitoring of these activities.
- ❖ MDM professionals held the training “Professional stress in humanitarian work and trauma-informed approach” in Bihac for front-line workers in the centre. Several topics were covered, namely basics of psychological trauma (trauma-informed approach); Professional stress and risks in humanitarian work; Understanding the processes that cause cumulative stress and burnout; Recognizing symptoms of cumulative stress and burnout in oneself and others; Risk and protective factors in helping work; An introduction to strategies for raising awareness and strengthening the capacity to cope with stress.
- ❖ As the management of HR related services and working with individual beneficiaries continues uninterrupted by MDM psychologists and social assistants, there has certainly been progress – beneficiaries in SC are showing improvements by becoming more communicative and cooperative, as well as by doing some service and volunteering in the centres helping with cleaning maintenance, helping in the kitchen etc.

### Red Cross

- ❖ Red Cross Teams, supported by DRC through ECHO funding, have been operational in out-of-site locations (Tuzla, Gorazde, Bosanski Petrovac and in Sarajevo Canton). Red Cross teams **assisted a total of 1.106 PoCs** (925 adult men, 60 adult women, 18 girls and 103 boys). Red Cross teams provided **547 Psychological First Aid (PFA) consultations**, with **125 MHPSS consultations done by psychologist**. Moreover, **1.220 First Aid assistances** (for PoCs with muscle pain and cramps, blisters, wounds, etc.) were provided, with **160 medical consultations** performed by medical doctors.



## 4. THEMATIC FOCUS – MONKEYPOX

- ❖ Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms similar to those seen in smallpox patients (fever, skin rash, mouth ulcers, cough, etc), although it is clinically less severe. Human Monkeypox is not a new virus, it was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since 1970, human cases of Monkeypox have been reported in 11 African countries (endemic countries).
- ❖ In 2003, the first Monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa was in the United States of America and was linked to contact with infected pet prairie dogs. Since May 2022 Monkeypox have been reported in several non-endemic countries, including BiH and neighboring countries.
- ❖ Human-to-human transmission can result from close contact with respiratory secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or recently contaminated objects. Transmission via droplet respiratory particles usually requires prolonged face-to-face contact, which puts health workers, household members and other close contacts of active cases at greater risk. Monkeypox presents with fever, an extensive characteristic rash and usually swollen lymph nodes. The incubation period of Monkeypox can range from 5 to 21 days, and the symptoms can last up to 4 weeks.
- ❖ Treatment of Monkeypox patients is supportive dependent on the symptoms. Monkeypox is not a deadly disease, and healthy individuals are recovering fully in matter of weeks. Of course, like every viral infection, it could develop serious complications to vulnerable categories like immunocompromised individuals, chronic patients, elderly, etc. Best way to protect yourself is to avoid contact with visibly sick individuals and wear proper PPE, avoiding contact with infectious secretions (mainly from skin lesions).
- ❖ On 23rd of July, International Health Regulations Emergency Committee have concluded that global Monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern, as stated by WHO Director General. WHO's assessment is that the risk of Monkeypox is moderate globally and in all regions, except in the European region where we assess the risk as high.
- ❖ First case of Monkeypox was reported in BiH mid-July, coincidentally, at the same time one newly arrived PoC in TRC Blazuj was suspected of Monkeypox infection. Namely, on 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, around 15:00, a group of PoCs from India arrived at the gate of TRC Blazuj seeking accommodation and medical aid. According to the established procedure, all PoCs underwent entry screening for symptoms and signs of COVID-19 infection, scabies, head lice, and other infectious diseases. During the screening, itself, a 23-year-old man was isolated due to having localized pox like skin lesions. According to the instructions of the infectologist on duty, the patient was referred to Department for Infectious diseases of University Clinical Center for examination and further diagnostics. At the clinic a sample was taken for analysis, and in accordance with given recommendations, the patient together with 6 direct contacts, was isolated inside symptomatic isolation of TRC Blazuj, awaiting results. After 24 hours' results came as NEGATIVE, and diagnosis of Impetiginized (infected) Varicella (chickenpox) was confirmed. PoC remained isolated until skin lesions completely healed, and he fully recovered.
- ❖ Following this, DRC has organized health educational sessions (group and individual) on Monkeypox for the communities inside all TRCs, as well as distribution of WHO Monkeypox health promotion materials.

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 escorting 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.

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