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Foreword

Dear readers,

Today we would like to present the SOS Bihac Monthly Report for March 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

Daily patrols

During the daily patrols, it happens again and again that injured and needy people are found on the side of the road. In this case, huddled, chilled and tired from the exertion. With an appropriately equipped sanitary van, we can provide the necessary first aid in such situations and then take those affected to a local hospital if necessary.



Rescue mission of a pregnant woman

A few days ago, with the help of the SOS Bihac Team and the border police, a pregnant woman and her family were rescued from an inaccessible part of Bosnia.



Medical Interventions

Dirk, a paramedic and an important co-founder of SOS Bihac, visited us for 12 days this month and helped us, among other things, with an assignment where he was able to contribute his valuable medical knowledge. He also brought us important medical supplies, for which we are very grateful.





Donate

Collection of donations from Austria by Brigitte Holzinger organization "Grenzenlose Hilfe Kremsmünster"

At the beginning of March we were able to pick up another donation directly from Austria. This was sponsored by the organization "Grenzenlose Hilfe Kremsmünster", which provided us with food from the region back in February. In addition to food, we also received medicines and other medical products such as masks, gauze bandages and wound dressings, as well as two tables that will be used in schools.

On the way there we saw many Ukrainian vehicles. Whenever we stopped we were able to speak to the families who told us that they left their home country out of fear and were on their way to Italy.

Medication sorting

The donations received, such as medicines and other medical goods, were counted by us, documented in an inventory list and sorted into the appropriate shelves in the medicine warehouse.

In addition, the cupboards in the 2nd entrance area of the SOS house were stocked with medicines, wound dressings, etc., so that our doctors have the essentials for their daily work quickly at hand.



Soccer training room for children

With the help of the Aachener Netzwerk, we were able to provide some children with a soccer training room. Both children from "Prokret", a reception center in Borici, and schoolchildren from the city of Bihac can train there in the community. This not only gives them a sense of the game of football, but also a sense of belonging, mutual tolerance and teamwork.









Melanie Schinnerl

SOS House

Trees

In February, the 270 trees on the grounds of the SOS Headquarters were prepared for the summer by cutting off or pruning unwanted branches. Spring has now arrived and the work has paid off. The first buds can already be seen on the apple trees and a few cherry trees are already in full bloom.

The harvest should benefit needy and needy people, which is why we hope for a fruitful year.





Fence renewal

We have also renewed or reinforced the fence around the property. Total came approx. 60 m of new fence in use.



Projects

"Land of Hope" Farm – Space Eye

Together with Space Eye, the project "Land of Hope" - an organic farm by refugees for refugees in Bihac was planned for this year. 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.

Preparations for this have already begun. First of all, it was necessary to mark the property line of the 20,000 m² wasteland with a fence.



First of all, holes about 50 cm deep and about 30 cm wide had to be dug every two meters with the right tools, some of which were donated by Space Eye. A straight line was drawn with a cord, along which the pits were dug and interfering shrubs and undergrowth were removed.



Concrete posts about two meters long were placed in them, which will be additionally poured in concrete in the coming days to ensure sufficient stability. A total of about 50 pieces were needed.





In addition, the driveway to the property was cleared of disturbing undergrowth and branches, which made it easier to drive through.



Ukraine – Ambasada Ukrajine u BiH

Due to the bad events that happened in Ukraine, we tried to get in touch with the relevant aid organizations. So it was possible for us, after 3 days of a difficult and demanding journey, to get to Lviv with a van, where we handed over the relief goods we had brought, such as food and baby items, to the local organization "Ambasada Ukrajine u BiH" could pass on.

These are distributed by them to the needy and suffering population. Since a doctor from the SOS team was also there, we were also able to provide medical care to some people on site.



Invitation to the informal consultation on the "Migration Knowledge Corridor" in Sarajevo

The ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and the Center of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) are hosting an informal consultation session in Sarajevo on Wednesday April 6th to discuss an exchange platform on humanitarian negotiations in the context of migration, to which we have been invited and wish to participate.

Many organizations, including SOS Bihac, would like to offer help in Ukraine, which means that a joint exchange is necessary. With this conversation we would like to build a humanitarian bridge to Ukraine and open a camp there where necessary relief supplies can be stored and distributed in an emergency.

Current

The Worldwide Tribe - Podcast

The organization "The Worldwide Tribe" is planning a podcast series in which they would like to accompany and interview some refugees on their journey. Among other things, the reason for their flight and the situation in the refugee camps should be heard. In addition, the volunteers who help at their side are to be asked about their work and the current situation in the respective countries. The journey starts in Cairo, continues to Beirut and in April the Balkan region is also to be visited. We from the SOS Bihac Team would like to give people an insight into the harsh reality of both sides by means of a podcast.

By uploading the podcast series to Spotify, among other places, we hope to be able to reach many people and sensitize them to the topic. Primarily for education, but also to awaken empathy towards refugees and, if necessary, to motivate them to become active themselves.