Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

The authorities have reported **1,224** irregular arrivals in July, almost as many as in the previous month (1,212).[1]

Top three declared countries of origin are Egypt (24%), Afghanistan (18%) and Morocco (14%).[1]

80% were issued an "attestation of expressed intent to seek asylum" (AISA).[1]

The Sector for Asylum of the Ministry of Security (MoS) registered the asylum claims of **15** people and conducted **6** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

In July, **6** negative decisions were issued. Three applications were suspended /terminated.[2]

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (END OF JULY)

31 people represented by UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH waiting for the registration of their asylum claim

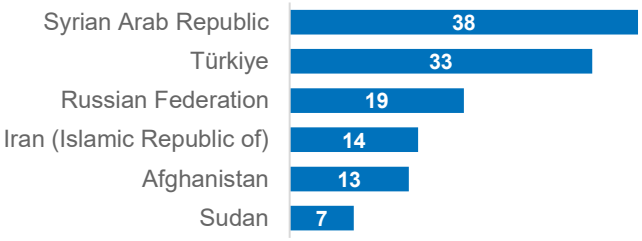
199 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

271 people under international protection (**46** with refugee status and **225** under subsidiary protection)

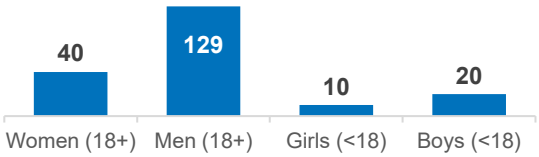
9 stateless people and people at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (END OF JULY)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



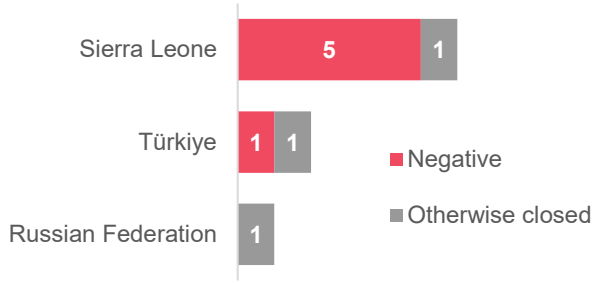
AGE AND GENDER



Of **30** children, **13** were unaccompanied or separated at the time of registration

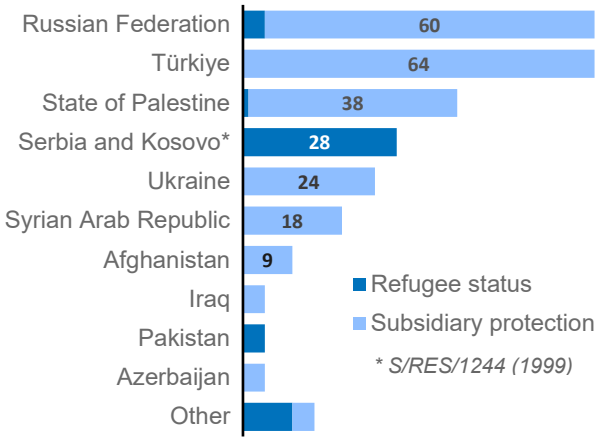
DECISIONS[2] IN JULY

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PEOPLE UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (END OF JULY)[2]

TOP-10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



[1] *Data based on weekly statistics from the Ministry of Security.*

[2] *Decisions not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of people covered by decisions.*

DELAYS IN THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE: PROTECTION RISKS AND HINDERED INTEGRATION

The overall pace of asylum processing has slowed down in 2025. The first bottleneck occurs at the registration stage, where individuals are invited by the authorities to be formally recorded as an asylum-seeker and provide basic personal information. For claims registered this year, the average waiting time between AISA issuance and registration reached 102 days – excluding cases in detention – while the AISA is only valid for 14 days. This gap leaves some individuals unprotected against non-refoulement and contributes to confusion among authorities regarding their legal status. Significant delays are also observed with RSD interviews, the step where an applicant's need for international protection is assessed. At the end of July, 68% of asylum-seekers awaiting an RSD interview had been waiting for more than six months. Waiting times are excessive, considering that according to the Law on Asylum, the time from registration to decision should not exceed six months, or exceptionally 18 months.

Protracted processing times leave asylum-seekers in a state of legal and emotional limbo, which hinders their ability to integrate locally and access certain rights, such as full access to healthcare and social welfare. Extended delays may also erode public confidence in the national asylum system. This can discourage individuals with international protection needs from engaging with the procedure in BiH, potentially leading to onward movement and increased exposure to exploitation and trafficking risks. To expedite the process and reduce backlogs, UNHCR calls for an increase in the number of registration and RSD interviews conducted, in line with the benchmarks established in the 2025 agreement between UNHCR and the Ministry of Security. In the context of the transition to a state-led migration and asylum response in BiH, UNHCR also advocates for the Ministry of Security to integrate project-funded positions into its regular staffing structure and to fill the vacant position within the Sector for Asylum.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 AND ARE CURRENTLY IN BIH: 301

23 people under subsidiary protection

3 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

275 people applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which permits stay up to six months but without rights (besides residency)

ASYLUM OVERVIEW (2023 – 2025)

	2023	2024	2025
Applications	147	235	86
Refugee status[2]	4	2	4
Subsidiary protection status[2]	63	93	28
Rejected applications[2]	9	16	14
Procedure terminated[2]	41	33	46

[2] Decisions not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of people covered by decisions.

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 318 DAYS

Average time from AISA issuance to first-instance decision, for decisions issued during the last six months (27 cases).

** For the waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, detention cases are excluded, as UNHCR does not receive data to calculate it. However, they are included in the next two steps.*

ASYLUM PROCESSING BACKLOG

107 DAYS

Average time between AISA issuance and registration, excluding detention cases. This time covers claims registered in the last six month (Feb. – July 2025). It has increased by 73% compared with the previous six-month period, when it was averaging 62 days (Aug. 2024 – Jan. 2025).

351 DAYS

68% of asylum-seekers (96 cases) pending RSD interview have been waiting for over six months (351 days in average). These cases should be processed timely. As per the Law on Asylum, waiting time from registration to decision should be up to six months, and exceptionally up to 18 months.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN JULY

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **116** people provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **44** people assisted with asylum-related free legal aid
- **149** people assisted with psychosocial support
- **6** sessions in social, recreational and occupational therapy activities
- In July, Vaša prava BiH provided free legal aid to 44 forcibly displaced people. Notable success was achieved in the recognition (nostrification) of foreign higher education qualifications for forcibly displaced people from Türkiye, Ukraine, and the State of Palestine. Recognition of academic credentials enables access to employment, further education, and professional licensing, helping refugees avoid “brain waste” and supporting their local integration and independence.

Information provision on asylum and international protection in TRC Blažuj @Vaša prava BiH

Football match at TRC Blažuj: sports activities fostering mental health, physical well-being and teamwork @BHWI

NEWS & EVENTS

- UNHCR released its 2024 Participatory Assessment Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on consultations conducted between September and October 2024 with asylum-seekers and refugees of diverse ages and backgrounds across the country. The report captures the voices of forcibly displaced people who shared the challenges they face in accessing their rights, during the asylum procedure and in their efforts toward local integration. In response to the concerns raised, UNHCR formulated a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening protection and supporting more effective integration. Central to this approach is the principle that forcibly displaced people must be at the heart of decision-making processes affecting their protection and well-being. Meaningful consultation is essential to identify priority needs, design tailored interventions, and inform planning and advocacy efforts.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 7.3 million**

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2025 global programmes.

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.

UNHCR BiH is grateful to the donors to its 2025 programme.

European Union | Italy