

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1,855 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in June, representing an 8% increase over June 2020. Of these arrivals, 15 were reported to be unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 7,775, representing a 15% increase over the first half of 2020, while 77,188 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

1,803 persons (97%) arriving in June expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

6 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in June, five of them in UNHCR's Information Centre and one in the Immigration Centre.

8 first-instance decisions* were issued in June: 2 positive (1 recognized refugee and 1 subsidiary protection) and 6 negative. 22 asylum claims were suspended during the period. Both positive decisions were issued for applications submitted in 2019.

13 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in June, all were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

2 recognized refugees naturalized in June.

403 days, the average length of the asylum procedure for first-instance decisions** issued in June

307 days, the average amount of time persons waited to register*** an asylum claim for those claims registered in June.

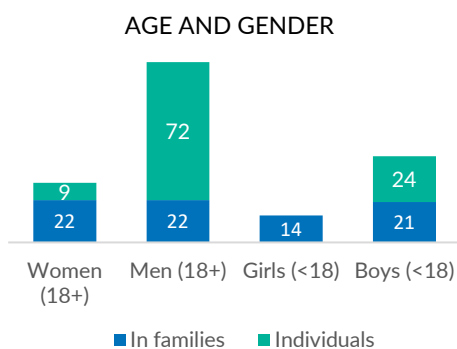
3,507 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of June, while 1,500-2,400 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

29% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre were conducted, with the vast majority failing to show up or cancelling.

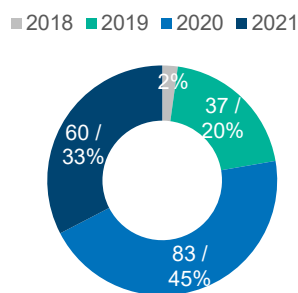
KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF JUNE 2021

- 184** asylum claims pending, of which 43% (79 people) in families
- 154** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 59** refugees in the country, of which, **6** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 56** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 68** persons at risk of statelessness and **1** stateless person being assisted by UNHCR and partners
- 80** former refugees from Croatia identified as persons at risk of statelessness

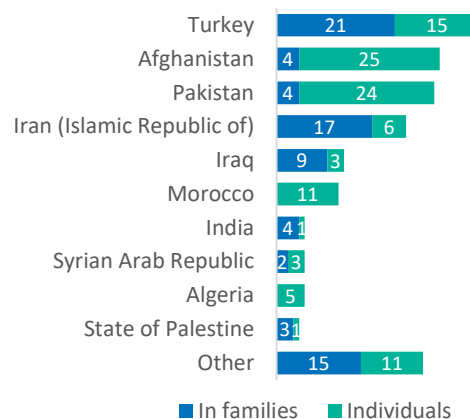
PENDING ASYLUM CLAIMS AT THE END OF JUNE – TOTAL: 184



PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION



TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



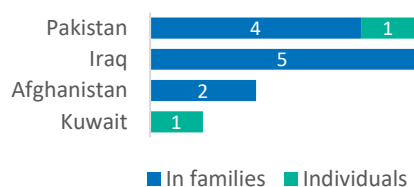
24 Unaccompanied or separated children

9 Single adult females

35 Children in families

ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN JUNE 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

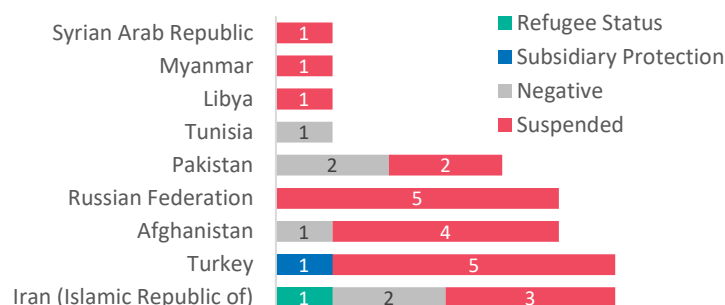


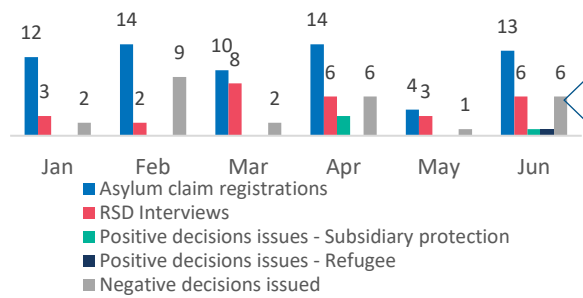
0 Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

1 Single adult female

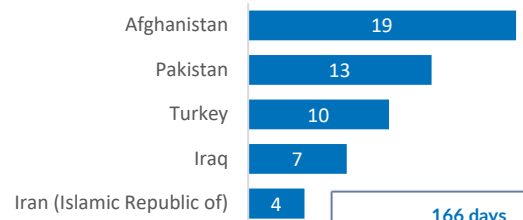
6 Children in families

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

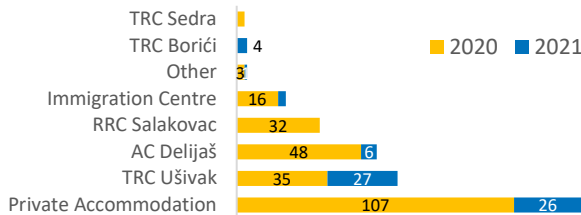
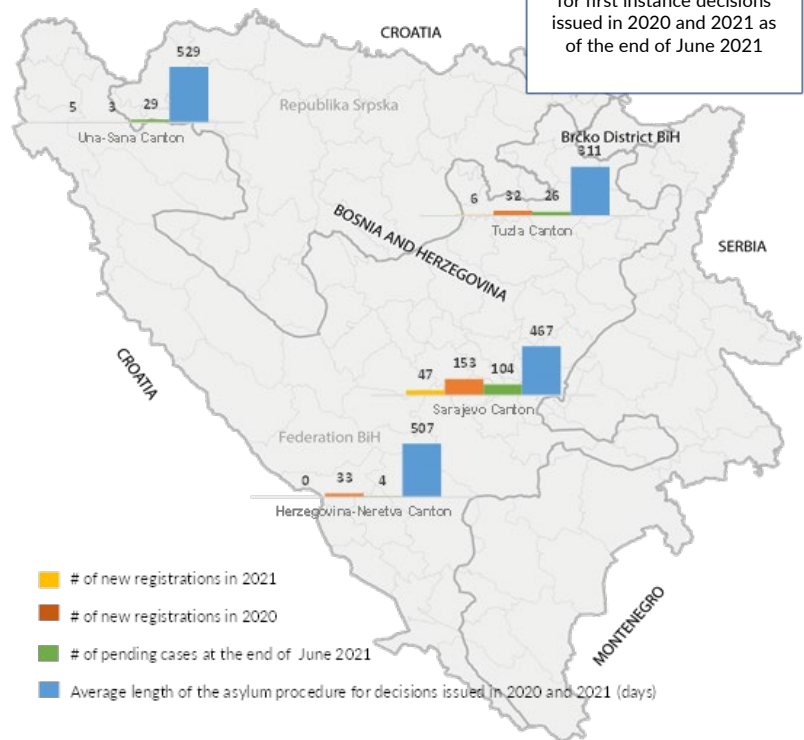


INDICATORS FOR 2021
REGISTRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2021


2021 Totals
 67 asylum-claim registrations
 28 RSD Interviews
 1 granted refugee status
 4 granted subsidiary protection
 26 negative decisions issued

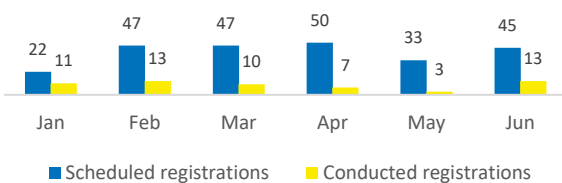
REGISTRATIONS IN 2021: Top 5 Country of Origin


166 days
 Average waiting time to register an asylum claim*** for those claims which were registered in 2020 and 2021
415 days
 Average processing time** for first instance decisions issued in 2020 and 2021 as of the end of June 2021

WAITING TIMES* AND ASYLUM PROCESSING****
ASYLUM CLAIM REGISTRATION BY LOCATION 2020-2021 (JAN-JUNE)

2020-2021 ASYLUM PROCESS INDICATORS MAP

REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM CLAIM ANALYSIS

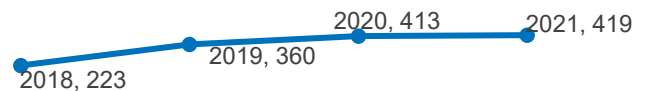
While the Sector for Asylum (SA) continues to regularly schedule asylum claim registrations in UNHCR's Info Centre (primarily for persons in private accommodation and TRC Ušivak), very few of those scheduled take place. From January to May 2021, the percentage of registrations conducted versus those scheduled has continued to drop - from 50% in January to 28% in February, 21% in March, 14% in April and only 9% in May. This number increased slightly in June, with 29% of scheduled registrations taking place. However, the failure to adequately identify and prioritize those interested in asylum vs. those wishing to pursue onward movement continues to have a negative impact on the total number of registrations being conducted.

Registrations in UNHCR Info Centre scheduled by SA MoS in 2021


ASYLUM CLAIM PROCESSING

The length of the asylum procedure from registration of a claim with the Sector for Asylum to the issuance of a first instance decision remains a key concern. For decisions issued in June, the average processing time was 403 days, however, when you remove those processed in the Immigration Centre, which are assessed in an accelerate procedure, the number increases to 610 days. Overall, processing times have nearly doubled since 2018, with the average processing time increasing from 223 days in 2018 to 419 days for the first half of 2021.

Long processing times result in the vast majority of asylum-seekers abandoning the procedure before a decision is issued. So far in 2021, only 31 decisions have been issued compared to 122 suspensions, representing just a quarter of closed cases, while in 2020 just 16% of closed cases resulted in the issuance of a first-instance decision.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018-2021


Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level (not individual). The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions. Data presented reflect asylum-seeker address at the time of asylum claim registration. *Waiting time for registrations is calculated as the number of days between AISA issuance and the date when asylum claim was registered, at case level, excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	67
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	1
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	4
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	26
Suspensions*	741	1,059	546	122

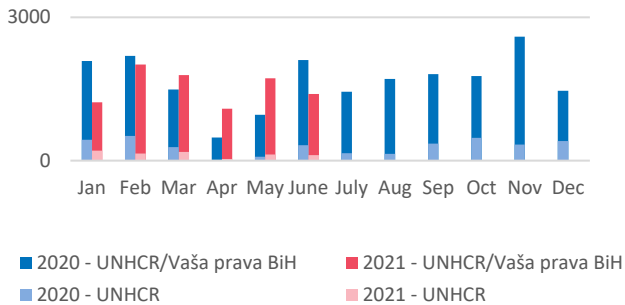
* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN JUNE

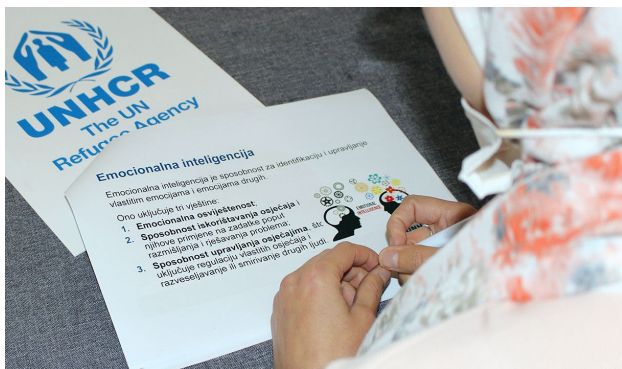
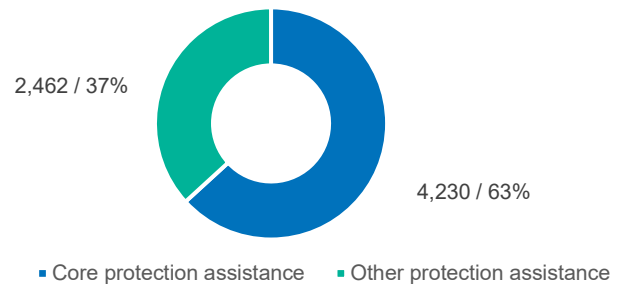
- 1,395 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA SM III projects) and AMIF.
- 478 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from the European Union (IcSP I and IcSP II projects) and AMIF.
- 748 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities) with the support from the European Union (IcSP I and IcSP II projects) and AMIF.
- Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants provided information on access to asylum in BiH to 2,193 persons.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR 2020-2021

PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



PROTECTION ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN 2021 - UNHCR/BHWI



UNHCR held two training sessions for cultural mediators working in Una-Sana Canton aiming to refresh cultural mediators on the importance of their role in improving understanding, creating relationships, and ultimately bridging the gap between refugees/migrants and service providers.



On 15 June, UNHCR organized a football and badminton tournament for children residing in Temporary Reception Centres in Una-Sana Canton and their peers from local schools to mark World Refugee Week 2021. [More](#).

OTHER NEWS IN JUNE

- On 17 June, in Refugee Reception Centre Salakovac, the Minister of Human Rights and Refugees and UNHCR Representative celebrated WRD with refugees and asylum-seekers accommodated at the centre. On the occasion, one of BiH's most promising artists Rikardo Druškić painted a mural in the centre.
- On 19 June, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and UN Under-Secretary-General Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu visited displaced families who benefitted from the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) in BiH. [More](#).
- On 20 June, UNHCR Representative in BiH, Lucie Gagné, appeared in an interview with BHRT morning programme, highlighting the contribution of displaced people in the joint defence against the pandemic and the importance of access to education for refugees, especially children. [More](#).
- On 21 June, the office of UNHCR BiH in Tuzla was officially opened in the presence of UNHCR staff, local authorities, partners, and civil society representatives. There was a photo exhibition to augment the formal opening. [More](#).
- In June, UNHCR organized two training sessions for cultural mediators working in Una-Sana Canton to refresh them on the importance of their role in improving understanding and bridging the gap between refugees/migrants and service providers. [More](#)

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