

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**1,664** migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in April, representing a 65% increase over March 2022, and an 31% increase compared to April 2021. 89,058 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

**1,501** persons (90%) arriving in April expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Pakistan (32%), Afghanistan (19%), Bangladesh (12%) and India (11%).

**6** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in April, all of them in UNHCR's Information Centre.

**3** decisions\* were issued in April: **2** granting subsidiary protection and **1** negative decision. 10 asylum applications were otherwise closed (9 cases involving 10 persons suspended).

**14** asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in April, all of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

**379 days** - the length of the asylum procedure for first-instance decisions\*\* issued in April.

**40 days** - the average amount of time persons waited to register\*\*\* an asylum claim for those claims registered in April.

**1,797** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of April, while 350 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

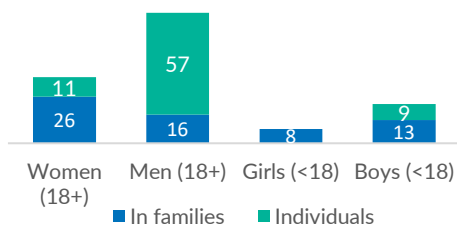
**47%** of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre for April were conducted.

## KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF APRIL 2022

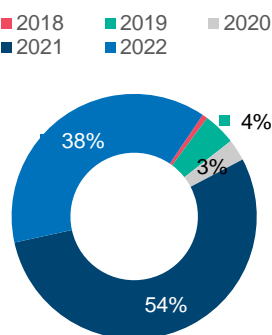
- 140** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 45% (63 people) involved persons in families
- 35** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 49** refugees in the country, of which **8** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 71** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 66** stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness being assisted by UNHCR and partners

## ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF APRIL – TOTAL: 140

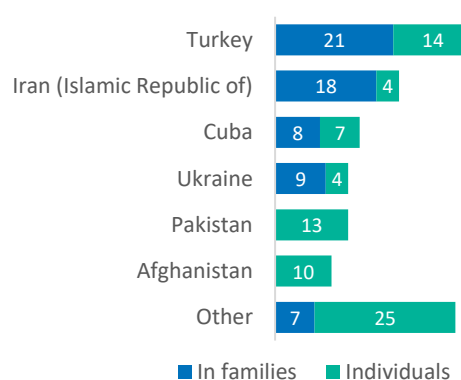
AGE AND GENDER



PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION



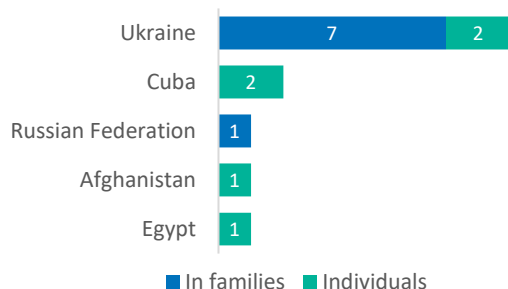
TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



- 9** Unaccompanied or separated children
- 11** Single adult females
- 21** Children in families

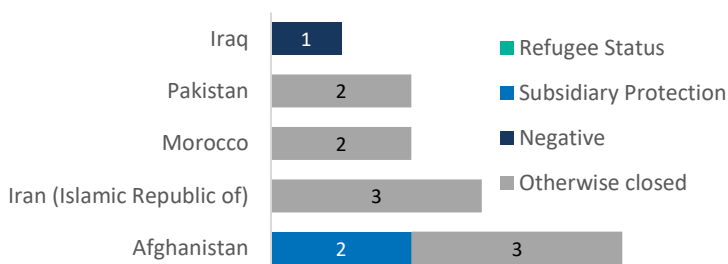
## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN APRIL 2022

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



- 1** Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)
- 2** Single adult females
- 0** Children in families

DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



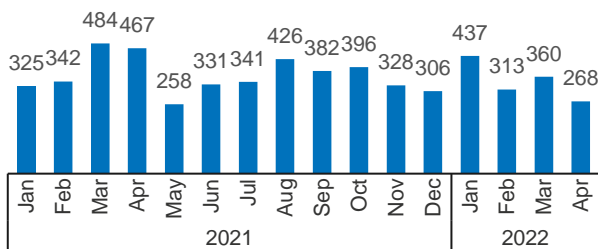
\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

## UKRAINIANS IN FOCUS

Since March, 5,004 persons who were forced to flee Ukraine due to the ongoing war arrived to Bosnia and Herzegovina and 4,553 exited. Most of them entered the country under a 30-day non-visa stay. On Thursday 21 April, the BiH Council of Ministers (CoM) unanimously adopted decisions facilitating the entry and residence of Ukrainian citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina on humanitarian grounds for a stay of up to 6 months, which does not provide any rights - besides residency - to Ukrainian refugees in BiH. Moreover, this status will not be accessible to third-country nationals who are fleeing Ukraine. A previous request by the Ministry of Security (MoS) on granting Temporary Protection had been earlier prepared but not presented to the CoM because it will only be presented if BiH faces a large influx as per the Law on Asylum. UNHCR shared its inputs emphasizing the importance of Temporary Protection to be requested to the CoM despite the number of Ukrainians arriving to BiH to ensure access to basic rights such as employment and education. At the moment, those who seek protection have access to the individual asylum procedure.

## LENGTH OF ASYLUM PROCEDURE

### LENGTH BETWEEN REGISTRATION AND RSD INTERVIEW



**62 days**

Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2022

**338 days**

Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview for RSD interviews held in 2022

**343 days**

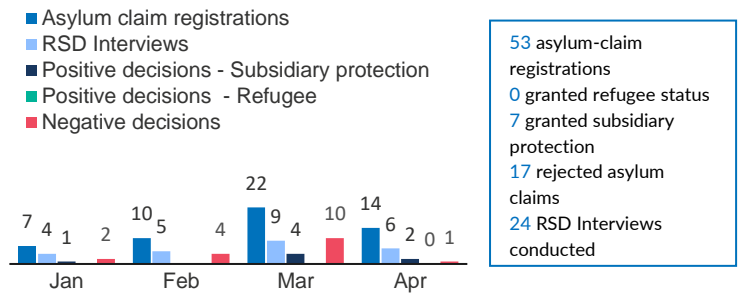
Average processing time\*\* for first instance decisions issued in 2022

## DECISIONS FOR AFGHANIS

In April, the MoS/Sector for Asylum, in the case of two persons from Afghanistan issued for the first time positive first-instance decisions granting them subsidiary protection status. The processing time between the asylum claim registration and first-instance decision were 410 and 347 days for these 2 cases. The individuals decided to appeal the decisions with support of the UNHCR legal aid partner Vaša Prava BiH aiming for them to be granted recognized refugee status.

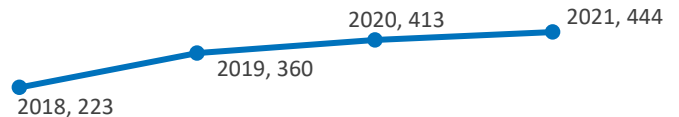
Since 2018, of all persons arriving to BiH, 9 persons were granted refugee status and 123 persons were granted subsidiary protection. Given the likely international protection needs of Afghans, UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities to ensure efficient access to the asylum procedure, quality of decisions and that the assessment of claims reflects the current human rights situation in the country of origin.

## REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022



53 asylum-claim registrations  
 0 granted refugee status  
 7 granted subsidiary protection  
 17 rejected asylum claims  
 24 RSD Interviews conducted

## AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME\*\* 2018-2021



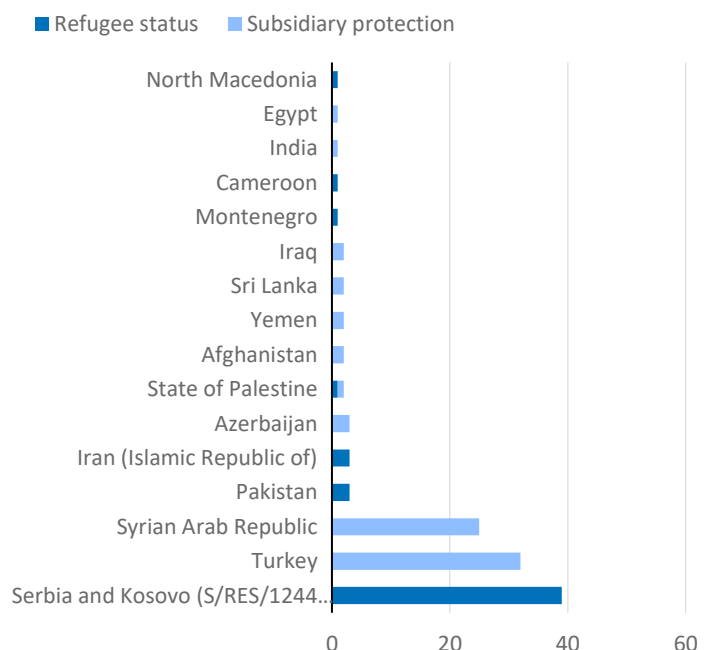
\*\*Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level (not individual). The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions. \*\*\*Waiting time for registrations is calculated as the number of days 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 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications	1,572	785	245	167	53
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	28	7
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	49	17
Otherwise closed*	741	1,059	546	184	60

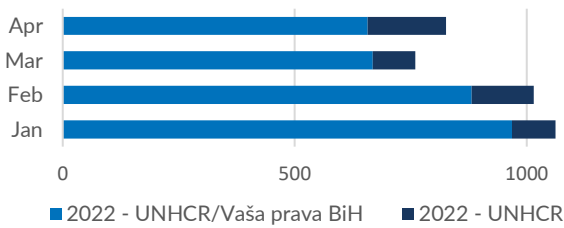
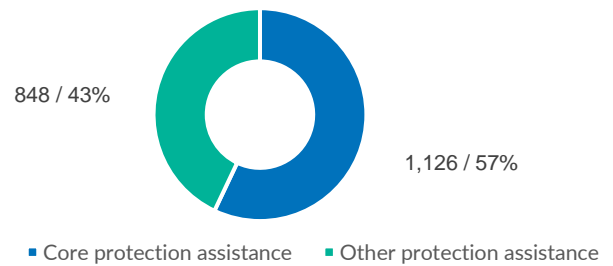
\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

## PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin



**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN APRIL**

- **488** legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH.
- **176** other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities).
- **290** core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities).
- **169** protection and information on access to asylum in BiH assistances provided by UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR - 2022**
**PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID**

**PROTECTION ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN 2022 - UNHCR/BHWI**


On 12 April, UNHCR together with two specialized psychotherapists organized a training session on the prevention of secondary traumatization and burnout for UNHCR staff and partners Vaša Prava BiH and the Ministry of Security/Sector for Asylum.



On 13 April, UNHCR Representative in BiH made a TV appearance to provide an update on the Ukrainian situation and the protection needs of the Ukrainian refugees in BiH.

**OTHER NEWS IN APRIL**

- On 7 April, UNHCR issued a press release expressing its concern regarding the lack of solutions of BiH authorities that would warrant protection for Ukrainian refugees staying in the country and advocating for the adaption of a flexible and temporary refugee protection solution to meet the needs of this population. [More.](#)
- On 12 and 13 April, UNHCR and two specialized psychotherapists organized a training session on the prevention of secondary traumatization and burnout for UNHCR staff and partners Vaša Prava BiH and the Ministry of Security/Sector for Asylum. [More.](#)
- On 13 April, UNHCR Representative in BiH made a TV appearance to provide an update on the Ukrainian situation and the protection needs of the Ukrainian refugees in BiH. [See video.](#)

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