

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2,273 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in June, representing a 13% increase over May 2022, and a 23% increase compared to June 2021. 93,341 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

2,159 persons (95%) arriving in June expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Bangladesh (31%), Afghanistan (22%), Burundi (17%) and Pakistan (8%).

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

7 decisions* were issued in June: **2** granting subsidiary protection while **5** were negative decisions. 21 asylum applications were otherwise closed (17 cases involving 21 persons suspended or dismissed).

17 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in June (13 cases involving 17 persons), all of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

295 days was the average length of the asylum procedure for first-instance decisions** issued in June.

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

2,056 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of June, while 450 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

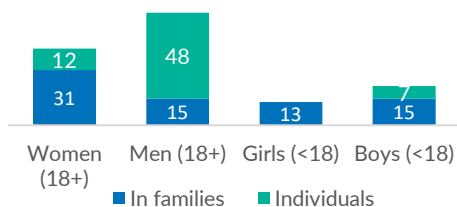
53% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre for June were conducted.

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF JUNE 2022

- 141** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 52% (74 people) involved persons in families
- 19** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 46** refugees in the country, of which **8** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 76** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 50** identified stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness are being assisted by UNHCR

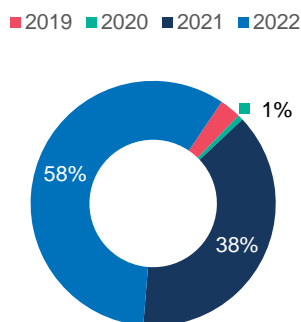
ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF JUNE – TOTAL: 141

AGE AND GENDER

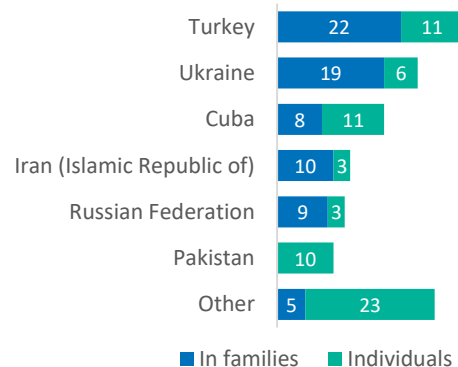


- 7 Unaccompanied or separated children
- 12 Single adult females
- 28 Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

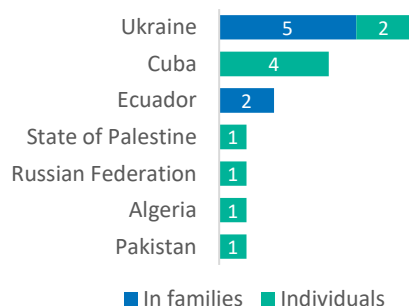


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



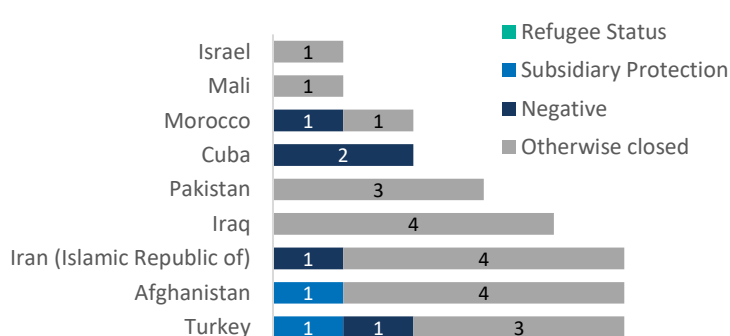
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN JUNE 2022

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



- 1 Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)
- 1 Single adult females
- 3 Children in families

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

MID-YEAR COMPARISON WITH 2021

Through ongoing advocacy and engagement with the authorities to improve the efficiency of the asylum procedure, asylum processing has improved in the first half of 2022 compared with the same period in 2021 by almost every metric. So far 90 asylum claims have been registered between January and June, up from 67 in the first half of 2021 representing a 34% increase, while waiting times to register have fallen considerably from 203 days in 2021 to 77 days in 2022. While a similar number of first instance decisions were issued mid-year in 2021 (31) and 2022 (35), the average processing times for decisions issued dropped from 419 days in 2021 to 327 days in 2022, and while the processing times remain excessive, the 22% drop in processing times is a welcome improvement. In addition, the number of suspended claims so far in 2022 (88) is 28% lower than in 2021 (122), while the rate of interviews scheduled versus conducted increased from 59% in 2021 to 74% in 2022, suggesting that as processing times decrease, fewer people are abandoning the procedure prior to issuance of a decision. Finally, the number of positive decisions increased as a percentage from 19% in the first half of 2021 to 34% between January and June 2022, although no decisions granting refugee status were issued in 2022 compared with one during the same period in 2021. The one area where there has been no improvement is the percentage of registrations scheduled compared with those conducted, which remained below 50% in 2022 (44%) and on par with 2021 (43%), therefore UNHCR will continue to work with the authorities to ensure better identification and prioritization of persons genuinely interested in asylum and improved scheduling which factors in that a percentage of appointments will not show-up.

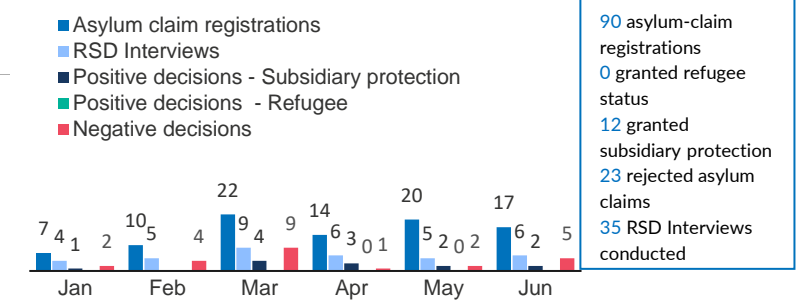
ASYLUM STATISTICS MID-YEAR 2021 vs. 2022

	Jan-Jun 2021	Jan-Jun 2022
Registrations	67	90
Waiting time to register	203 days	77 days
Interviews	28	35
Processing times	419 days	327 days
1 st instance decisions	31	35
Positive decisions	5	12
Suspensions	122	88
% Registrations scheduled vs. conducted	43%	44%
% Interviews schedules vs. conducted	59%	74%

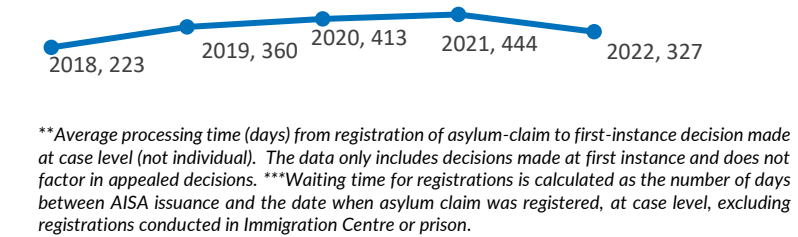
QUALITY OF DECISIONS

While many of the metrics highlighted above point to improvements in overall asylum processing, one area that remains concerning is the quality of first-instance decisions, notably the overreliance on subsidiary protection rather than refugee status, which grants individuals greater rights and durable solutions. Of the 12 decisions granting subsidiary protection, 5 involved persons from Afghanistan and 3 from Turkey. In the first four months of 2022, EU+ recognized 59% of asylum claims from Afghanistan as refugees and granted subsidiary protection in just 8% of instances, while for Turkey 43% of claims were recognized as refugees while just 1% were granted subsidiary protection, meaning that for both nationalities, where individuals were found to be in need of international protection, refugee status was overwhelmingly granted.

REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022



AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME** 2018-2022, as of 30 June



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.

77 days
Average waiting time to register an asylum claim*** for those claims which were registered in 2022, as of 30 June

310 days
Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview for RSD interviews held in 2022, as of 30 June

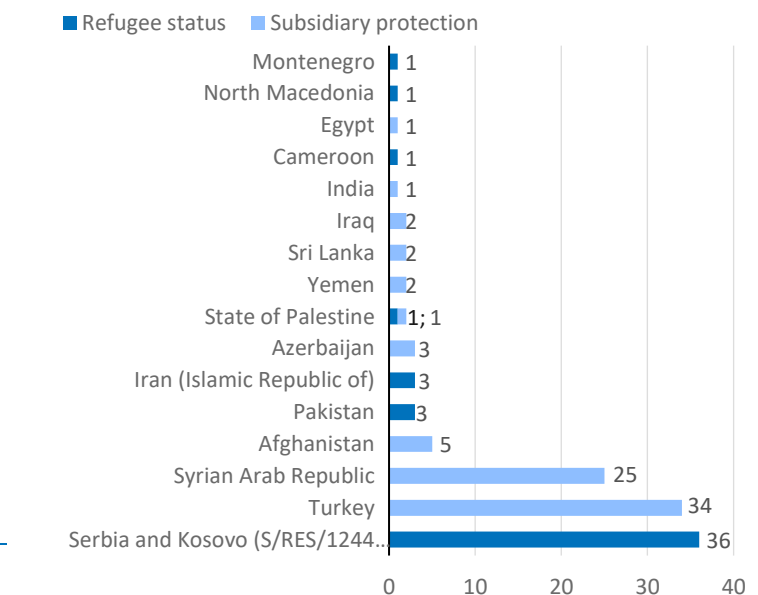
327 days
Average processing time** for first instance decisions issued in 2022, as of 30 June

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications	1,572	785	245	167	90
Refugee ^x status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection ^x status granted	16	41	31	28	12
Rejected applications ^x	45	35	54	49	23
Otherwise closed [*]	741	1,059	546	184	88

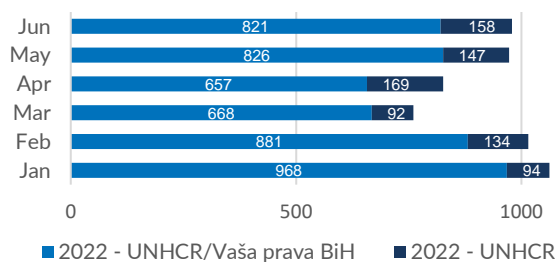
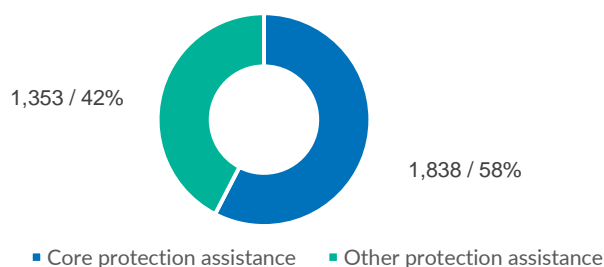
* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN JUNE

- 663 legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH.
- 263 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities).
- 320 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities).
- 158 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 10 June, UNHCR Representative in BiH handed over the playground to the Mayor of the Hadžići municipality, constructed within a joint project of UNHCR and IOM "Enhancing Social Cohesion in Communities Hosting People on the Move".



On 20 June UNHCR marked World Refugee Day in Sarajevo, in partnership with Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, organizing a "Cooking Class" with refugees and asylum seekers.

OTHER NEWS IN JUNE

- On 2 June, UNHCR organized a workshop for media representatives in Una-Sana Canton on reporting on mixed migrations, sharing the latest information on the refugee situation in Ukraine, discussing the proper use of terminology, and recognizing and countering hate speech. [More](#).
- On 10 June, UNHCR Representative in BiH handed over the playground to the Mayor of the Hadžići municipality, constructed within a joint project of UNHCR and IOM "Enhancing Social Cohesion in Communities Hosting People on the Move". [More](#).
- On 18 June, UNHCR and the local Harmani II primary school in Bihac organized "Games without Borders" to mark the World Refugee Day at the sport field that was constructed with support from UNHCR. [More](#).
- On 20 June UNHCR marked World Refugee Day in Sarajevo, in partnership with Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, organizing a "Cooking Class" where refugees and asylum seekers prepared and presented traditional dishes from their countries of origin. [More](#).

UNHCR is grateful for the support of [Sweden](#) | [Norway](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Germany](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Ireland](#)
 UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is grateful for the support of [Austria](#) | [European Union](#)