

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

1,173 persons arrived irregularly in November, which is 35% cent less compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are Morocco (24%), Afghanistan (19%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (12%).¹

83% of them were issued an “attestation of the expressed intent to apply for asylum” (AISA).¹

1,041 asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of the month.

The Sector for Asylum of the Ministry of Security (MoS) registered the asylum claims of **17** persons and conducted **10** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

18 positive decisions were issued, all granting subsidiary protection, while **5** negative decisions were issued. One application was suspended / terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END NOVEMBER)

37 persons represented by UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH waiting for the registration of their asylum claim

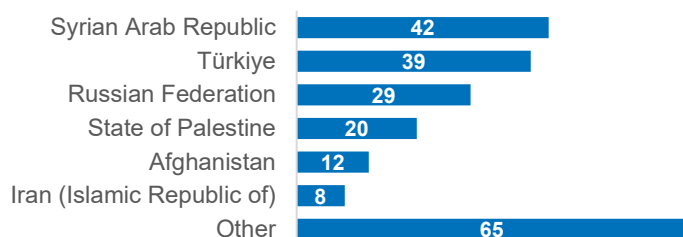
215 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

239 persons under international protection (**45** with refugee status and **194** under subsidiary protection)

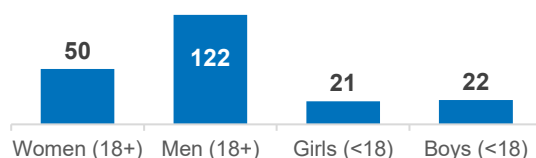
16 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AS OF END NOVEMBER)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



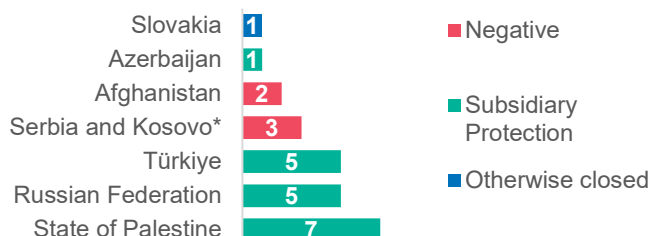
AGE AND GENDER



Of **43** children, **7** are unaccompanied or separated

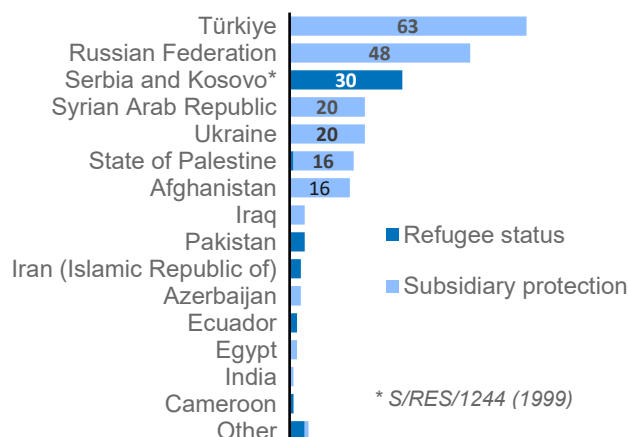
DECISIONS² IN NOVEMBER

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AS OF END NOVEMBER)

TOP-15 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



* S/RES/1244 (1999)

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

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

END OF THE #IBELONG CAMPAIGN TO END STATELESSNESS

The #IBelong Campaign, which was launched in 2014, came to a closure in November 2024. Its aim was to raise awareness, secure commitments and catalyze global action to end statelessness. To mark this milestone, in cooperation with the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsmen of BiH, UNHCR and Vaša prava BiH organized two events in Sarajevo on 29 November. The [Special report regarding the prevention of the risk of statelessness in BiH](#), prepared by the BiH Ombudsman with support from UNHCR, was presented in the BiH Parliament to over 60 representatives of authorities from the state, entity, cantonal and municipal levels, and other stakeholders. The Report contains 14 recommendations to the country's institutions at all levels, aiming to enhance law and practice for the prevention of the risk of statelessness. Relevant authorities should provide their feedback on the recommendations to the Ombudsmen at the beginning of 2025. The presentation of the Special Report was followed by a roundtable to take stock of the progress achieved in fighting statelessness in BiH, promote the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, and inform the plan for completion of activities to enable a sustainable system for the prevention of risk of statelessness. BiH has made significant efforts to resolve the issue of statelessness in the country. However, there are few remaining gaps that need to be addressed to prevent new cases from arising. As of November 2024, UNHCR is aware of 16 persons who are stateless or at risk of statelessness in BiH.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 266 (AT THE END OF NOVEMBER)

- 19 people under subsidiary protection
- 5 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision
- 1 person with an AISA
- 241 people applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which allows to stay up to six months but without rights (besides residency)

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 365 DAYS

Average time from AISA issuance to first-instance decision, for decisions issued during the last six months, excluding those registered in detention.



ASYLUM OVERVIEW (2022 – 2024)

	2022	2023	2024
Applications	149	147	216
Refugee status ²	0	4	2
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	87
Rejected applications ²	26	9	17
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	26

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

ASYLUM PROCESSING BACKLOG

65 DAYS

Average waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, excluding detention cases. This waiting time covers claims registered in the last six months (June – Nov. 2024). It has slightly decreased compared with the previous six-month period, when it was averaging 69 days (Dec. 2023 – May 2024).

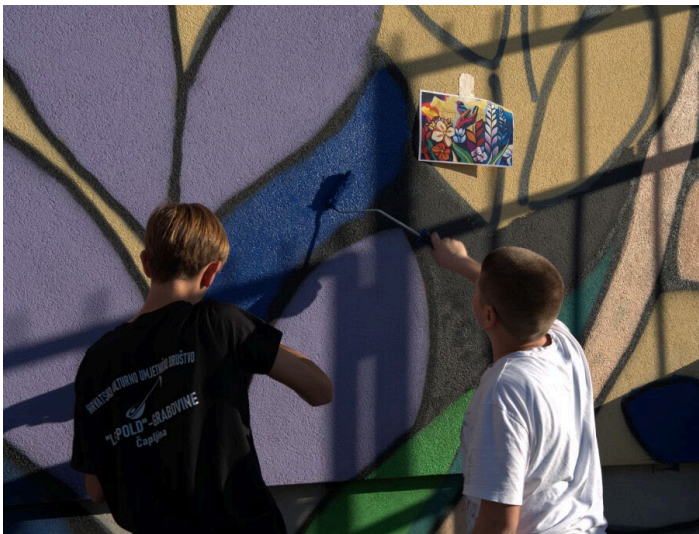
284 DAYS

38% of asylum-seekers pending a RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (284 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 NOVEMBER

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **199** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **102** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **249** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **78** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- In response to the devastating floods and landslides that hit Bosnia and Herzegovina on 4 October, UNHCR donated over 600 food and hygiene parcels to those who need help the most. UNHCR's partner the Catholic Relief Services procured the packages, which were then distributed to affected households by the local Red Cross in Jablanica, Konjic, Fojnica, Kiseljak, and Kreševo. All distributions were completed in early November.



Mural-making by refugee and local community children at an elementary school in Čapljina @UNHCR/BHWI



Presentation of the Special report regarding the prevention of the risk of statelessness in BiH at the BiH Parliament @UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH

NEWS & EVENTS

- As part of the SDGs week in BiH, UNHCR and its psychosocial support partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI) organized a [mural-making workshop](#), applying the Artolution approach, at the Vladimir Pavlović elementary school in Čapljina. 18 children participated, including seven refugee children from Ukraine and Palestine and 11 children from the local community.
- UNHCR and its partner Vaša prava BiH organized a workshop in Sarajevo on the provision of free legal aid to people under international protection to support their access to rights in BiH. The event aimed to strengthen the capacities of state free legal aid providers. Vaša prava BiH, as an NGO providing free legal aid, shared their experience in this field. Discussions also covered the legal framework in the country, as well as challenges and needs to further develop the public free legal aid system in BiH.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.0 million**

Unfunded 35%
2.8 M



Funded 65%
5.2 M

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

UNHCR BiH is grateful to the donors to its 2024 programme.
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