

Bosnia and Herzegovina

October 2020

During October 2020, BiH authorities recorded the **irregular arrival of 1,087 migrants and asylum-seekers** (of which 37 were unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)) to the country. This brings the total number of new arrivals to **67,820** since January 2018 and to **14,557** in 2020 alone.

980 persons (90%) among those arriving in October expressed the intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs. Overall, in 2020, **13,929** persons were issued the AISA, averaging at 94% of all arrivals.

11 Asylum claims were registered in October of which 10 were processed in UNHCR's Info Centre in Sarajevo and one in the Immigration Centre.

9 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in October. Of those, **7** were conducted in UNHCR's Information Center in Sarajevo and **2** in government run facilities.

Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 infections throughout BiH, the MoS cancelled the registration of asylum claims and RSD interviews scheduled for November. UNHCR advocates with the authorities on alternative solutions, including remote interviews.

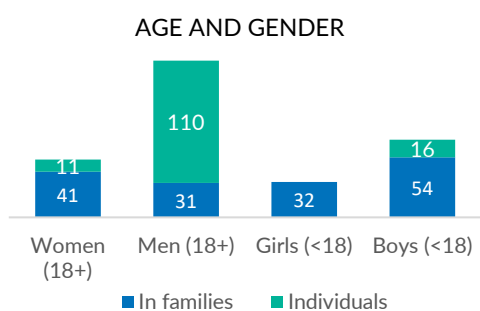
6 Decisions* were issued in October of which **all** were rejected. There were no refugee nor subsidiary statuses granted. Of the decisions issued, **1** was for a claim registered in 2020 and the remainder were from 2019.

At the end of the month, **6,770** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities, while **2,200** (observed by Outreach Teams) - **4,300** (data provided by USC authorities) remain stranded in squats and on route, mostly in Una-Sana canton.

KEY INDICATORS FOR OCTOBER 2020

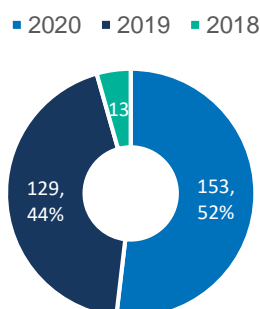
- **295** asylum-seekers pending RSD interview and/or decision
- **158** (54%) asylum-seekers belong to family households
- **352** persons awaiting registration of asylum claim with assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- **68** refugees in the country at the end of the month (**8** from outside former Yugoslavia)
- **79** persons under subsidiary protection at the end of month
- **313 days****, average length of the asylum procedure for decisions issued in October

PENDING RSD INTERVIEW AND/OR DECISION AT THE END OF OCTOBER – TOTAL: 295

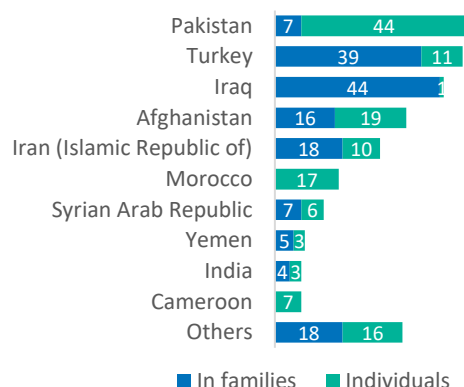


- 16** Unaccompanied and separated children
- 11** Single women
- 86** Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

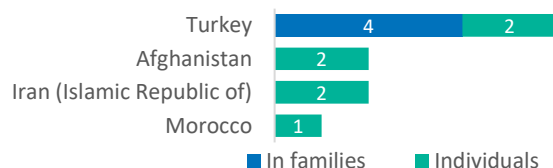


TOP-TEN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



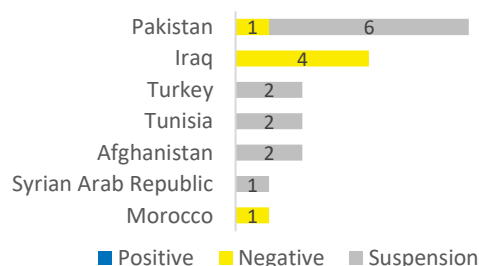
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN OCTOBER

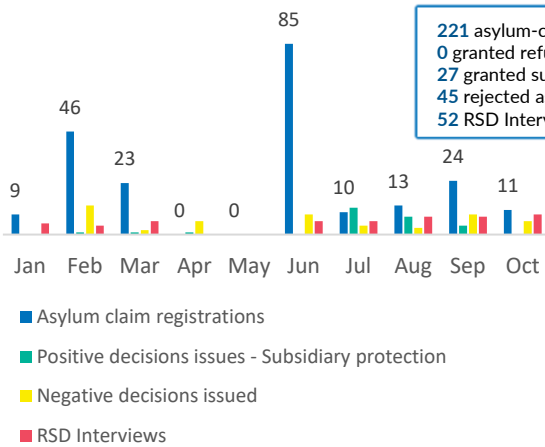
REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



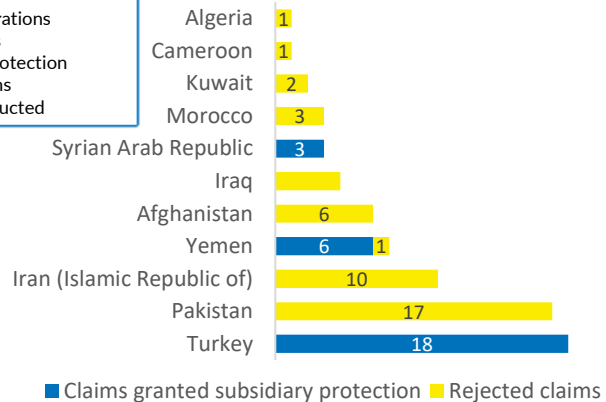
- 4** Unaccompanied and separated children
- 0** Single women
- 3** Children in families

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



INDICATORS FOR 2020
REGISTRATIONS AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2020 — 2020 FIRST INSTANCE DECISIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN


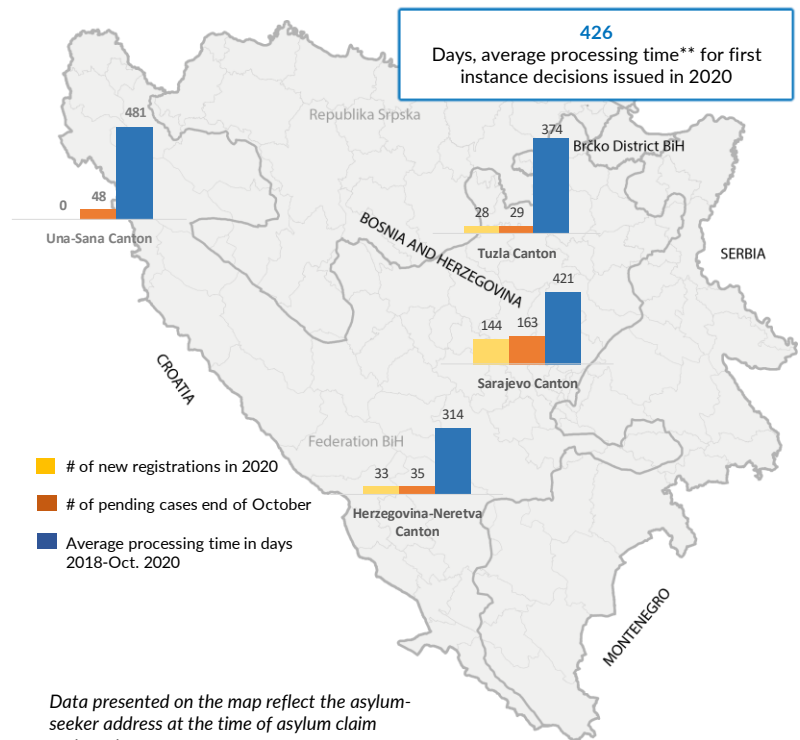
221 asylum-claim registrations
 0 granted refugee status
 27 granted subsidiary protection
 45 rejected asylum claims
 52 RSD Interviews conducted



Access to asylum and length of the asylum procedure varies considerably depending on location within BiH, with asylum-seekers in Una-Sana Canton facing considerable obstacles. The current average processing times do not take into consideration the amount of time asylum-seekers have waited to register their claim, which can take months depending on location.



UNHCR regularly provides information to potential asylum-seekers on access to the asylum system in BiH.



Data presented on the map reflect the asylum-seeker address at the time of asylum claim registration.

INDICATORS 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
Applications	1,572	785	221
Recognized refugee	0	3	0
Subsidiary protection	16	41	27
Rejected applications	45	35	45
Suspensions	741	1,059	520

*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

AVERAGE LENGTH OF ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018 - OCTOBER 2020

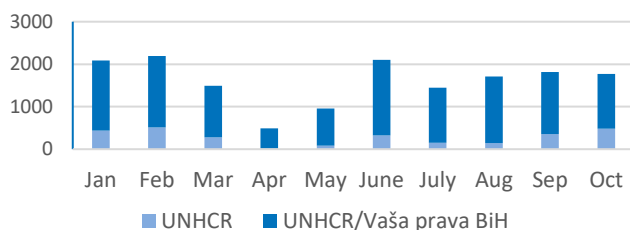

**Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level, not individual. The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN OCTOBER

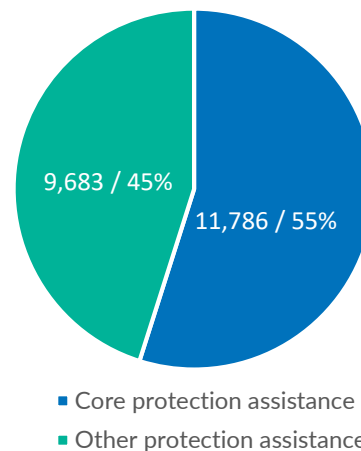
- **1,770** potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IPA III and IcSP projects)
- **92** persons participating in UNHCR-supported DRC Community Based Protection activities
- **63** vulnerable refugees, persons under subsidiary protection and asylum-seekers supported with humanitarian parcels due to COVID-19 measures with the support of the European Union (IcSP project)
- **1,586** core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASCs, SGBV activities) with the support from USA.
- **1,261** other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, health related assistance, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from USA.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN 2020

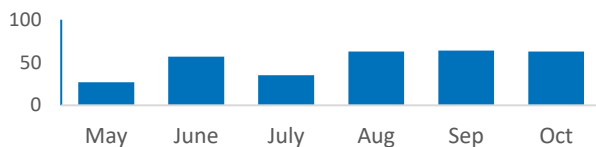
PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



PROTECTION ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS



HUMANITARIAN PARCELS FOR VULNERABLE PoCs

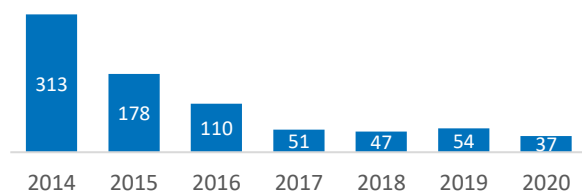


STATELESSNESS

Since the beginning of UNHCR's global #IBelong campaign in 2014, UNHCR and partners successfully resolved **790** cases of people at risk of statelessness.

Overall, since the beginning of a joint programme with Vaša Prava BiH aimed at the prevention and reduction of statelessness in BiH in 2008, **1,777** persons were assisted with obtaining documents.

PEOPLE AT RISK OF STATELESSNESS ASSISTED IN BIH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF #IBELONG CAMPAIGN IN 2014



NEWS IN OCTOBER

- UNHCR organized a training on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation by humanitarian workers in the Asylum Centre - Delijaš. [Read more.](#)
- With support from IcSP, UNHCR donated ICT equipment to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) to facilitate the work of registering in the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)
- UNHCR/BHWI delivered 63 packages of food and hygiene products to most vulnerable recognized refugees and asylum-seekers. [Read more.](#)
- UNHCR/BHWI mediated in the enrollment of a six-year-old girl from Yemen in preschool education in Ilidža. [Read more.](#)
- Supported by European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, UNHCR, in cooperation with IOM, engages in providing information on safe and legal solutions (asylum and AVRR). [Read more.](#)
- With assistance from USA, UNHCR/Women's initiative Foundation B&H, through various workshops, works every day to empower asylum-seeking women in TRC Ušivak. [Read more.](#)

UNHCR is grateful for the support of [Australia](#) | [Canada](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [Japan](#) | [USA](#) | [UN CERF](#)
 With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Uniqlo](#)
 UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is grateful for the support of [European Union](#) | [USA](#)