

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**2,010** migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in May, representing a 21% increase over April 2022, and an 4% increase compared to May 2021. 91,068 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

**1,894** persons (94%) arriving in May expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Bangladesh (25%), Afghanistan (23%), Pakistan (15%) and Burundi (7%).

**5** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in May, 3 of them in UNHCR's Information Centre and 2 in AC Delijas.

**4** decisions\* were issued in May: **2** granting subsidiary protection and **2** negative decisions. 7 asylum applications were otherwise closed (6 cases involving 7 persons suspended).

**20** asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in May (12 cases involving 20 persons), all of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

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

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

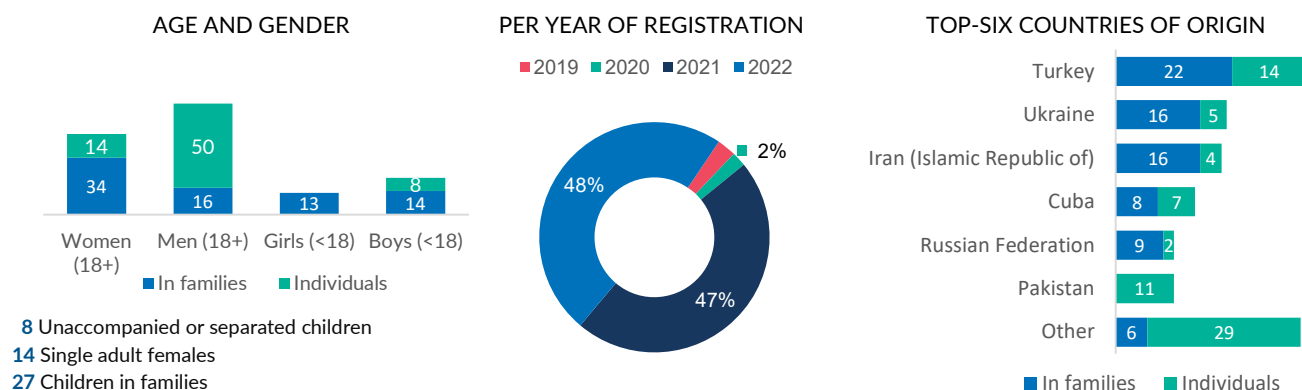
**1,735** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of May, while 350 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

**54%** of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre for May were conducted.

## KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF MAY 2022

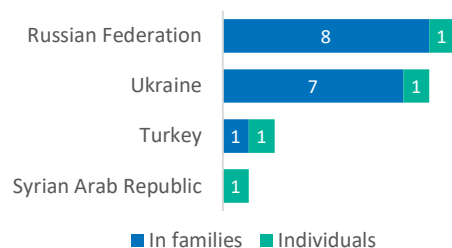
- 149** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 52% (77 people) involved persons in families
- 34** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 46** refugees in the country, of which **8** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 74** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 52** 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 MAY – TOTAL: 149



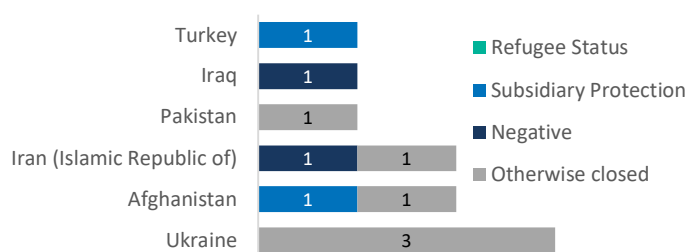
## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN MAY 2022

### REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



0 Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)  
 3 Single adult females  
 7 Children in families

### DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)

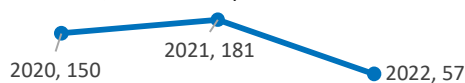


\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

### IMPROVED AWAITING TIMES

The average waiting\*\*\* time to register an asylum claim in 2022 has decreased significantly in comparison to the previous years. The average number of days between the issuance of AISA and the date when the asylum claim was registered for claims registered in 2022 as of end of May was 52 days. This number represents a 62% decrease compared to the waiting time for registrations conducted in 2020 (150 days) and a 59% decrease compared to 2021 (181 days). In addition, the number of asylum claims that were registered in the first five months of 2022 (73) increased compared to the first five months of 2021 (55). The lower number of registrations in 2021 could partially be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic, but both the increased number of registrations and decreased waiting times show a positive trend toward improving access to asylum system. At the same time, we see a positive development with a reduction in average processing time, which was 335 days in 2022 and 426 days in the first five months of 2021, representing a decrease of 21%. This is a very welcome development as it shows an improvement in access to asylum in BiH and an acceleration of the asylum process. Overall, asylum-seekers have to wait fewer days to receive a first-instance decision on their asylum claim. It must be noted that according to the BiH law, the procedure should take a maximum of 6 months in regular procedure and exceptionally can take 18 months. At the end of May, there were 28 cases (involving 36 persons) who are awaiting their RSD interview for more than 6 months and UNHCR will continue to advocate for all asylum-seekers to receive a decision within this given period.

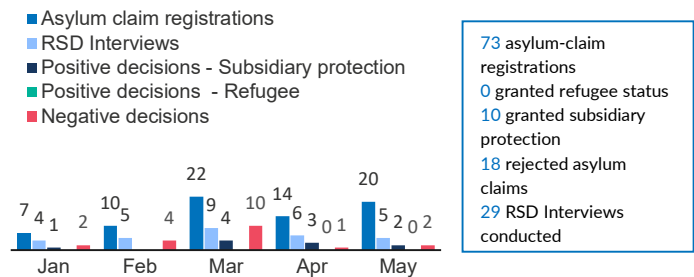
AVERAGE WAITING TIME (DAYS) FOR REGISTRATIONS CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR: 2020 – 2022, as of 31 May



### UKRAINIANS IN FOCUS

Since March, the BiH Border Police reported 8,452 entries of Ukrainian nationals who were forced to flee Ukraine due to the ongoing war and 7,799 exits. Most of them entered the country under a 30-day non-visa stay and 22 asylum claims were registered by the end of May. As mentioned in the previous operational update, the BiH Council of Ministers decided to adopt decisions on temporary residence on humanitarian grounds for a stay of up to 6 months. In May, it became clear that a significant number of persons from Ukraine (49 by the end of May) opted for this type of temporary residence. UNHCR implementing partners shared that Ukrainians are hopeful and willing to return to Ukraine when the situation improves. UNHCR and its partners continue to share information with refugees about the different types of protection and rights related to seeking asylum and temporary residence on humanitarian grounds. In addition, UNHCR developed a bi-weekly fact sheet with key information regarding refugees from Ukraine residing in BiH to continue informing the international community and relevant stakeholders about the situation.

### REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022



AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME\*\* 2018-2022, as of 31 May



\*\*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.

**57 days**

Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2022, as of 31 May

**295 days**

Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview for RSD interviews held in 2022, as of 31 May

**335 days**

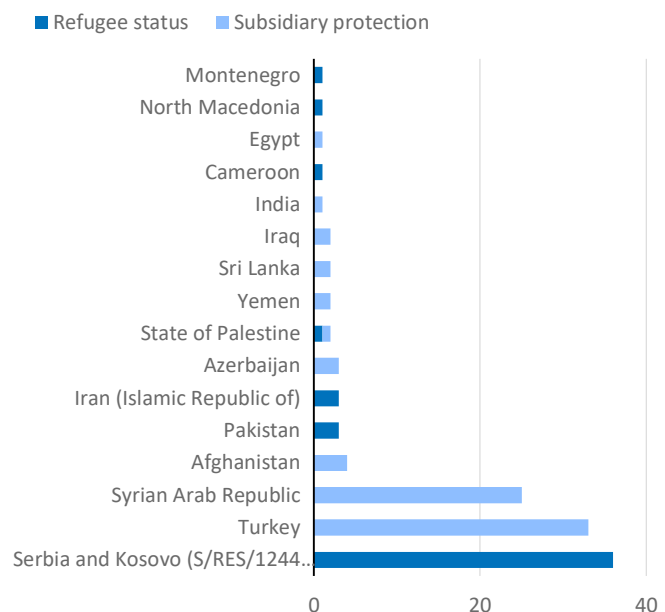
Average processing time\*\* for first instance decisions issued in 2022, as of 31 May

### ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications	1,572	785	245	167	73
Refugee <sup>x</sup> status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection <sup>x</sup> status granted	16	41	31	28	10
Rejected applications <sup>x</sup>	45	35	54	49	18
Otherwise closed <sup>*</sup>	741	1,059	546	184	67

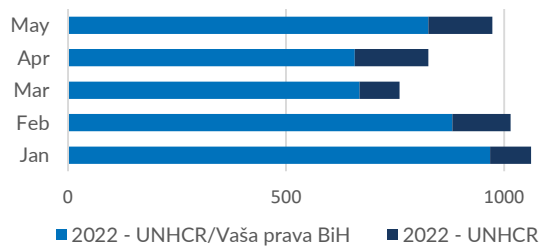
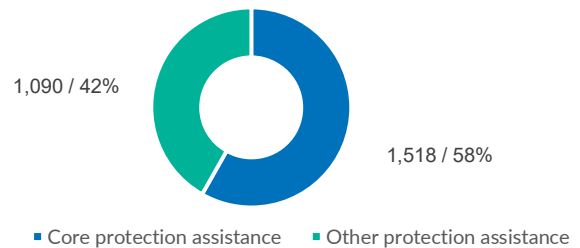
<sup>\*</sup>Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

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



**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN MAY**

- 679 legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH.
- 242 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities).
- 392 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities).
- 147 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 27 and 28 May, UNHCR, INTERgreat and the BiH Pride March organised a workshop to create a mutual support network enabling exchange of ideas between the local LGBTQI+ community and LGBTQI+ asylum-seekers and refugees and empower all participants through solidarity and joint activities.



On 24 May, UNHCR organised a high-level Round Table on eradicating statelessness. The purpose of the round table is to identify the remaining obstacles to resolving the issue of statelessness in BiH.

**OTHER NEWS IN MAY**

- On 20 May, UNHCR participated in several events to mark 30 years of Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the United Nations. UNHCR was present at a high-level event at the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, while UNHCR implementing partners participated at the UN Fair, showing and sharing products made by persons of concern. [More.](#)
- On 20 May, UNHCR organised a workshop for media representatives, "Mixed Migration in the Media," in Sarajevo to share the latest information on the refugee situation in Ukraine. The focus was particularly given to the proper use of terminology in reporting on migration and refugees. [More.](#)
- On 24 May, UNHCR organised a high-level Round Table on eradicating statelessness aimed at creating a platform to gather representatives of BiH authorities involved in statelessness matters to discuss what must be done to end statelessness in the remaining two and a half years of the #iBelong campaign. [More.](#)
- On 27 and 28 May, UNHCR together with local NGO INTERgreat and the BiH Pride March organised a workshop for LGBTQI+ asylum-seekers and refugees and the local LGBTQI+ community. [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](#)