

Bosnia and Herzegovina

3,076 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in August, representing an increase of 47% compared to the number of arrivals recorded during the previous month (2,090) and 78% increase compared to arrivals reported in August 2021 (1,731). 98,507 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

2,878 persons (94%) arriving in August expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Afghanistan (42%), Burundi (17%) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (9%).

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

10 decisions* were issued in August: **9** granting subsidiary protection while **1** was negative decision. 10 asylum applications were otherwise closed (6 cases involving 10 persons suspended).

18 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in August (10 cases involving 18 persons), 10 of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo, 7 in AC Delijas and 1 in Immigration Centre.

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

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

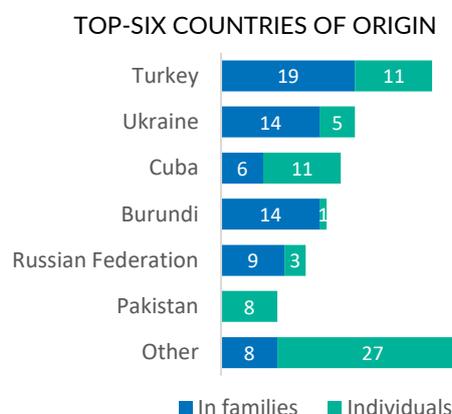
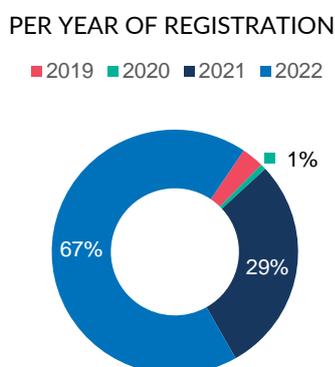
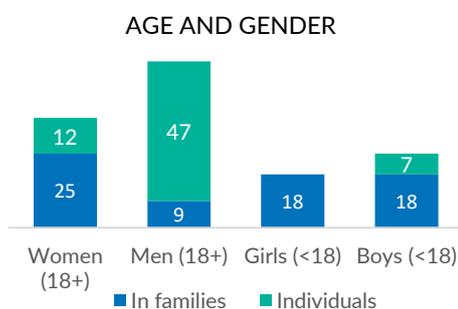
2,272 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of August, while 450 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

81% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Information Centre for August were conducted, the highest rate in 2022 so far.

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF AUGUST 2022

- 136** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 51% (70 people) involved persons in families
- 3** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 45** refugees in the country, of which **8** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 88** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 50** identified stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness are being assisted by UNHCR

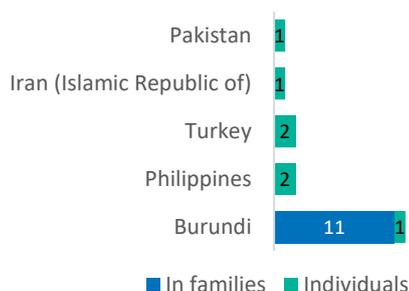
ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF AUGUST – TOTAL: 136



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

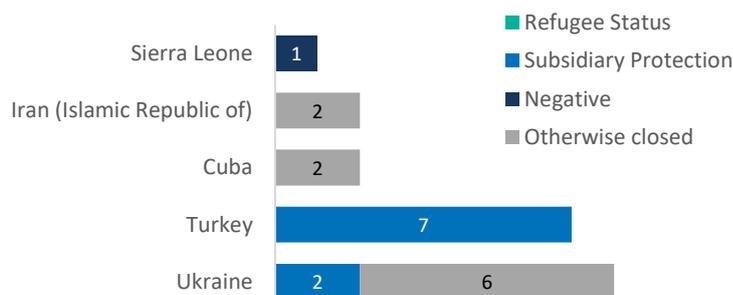
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN AUGUST 2022

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

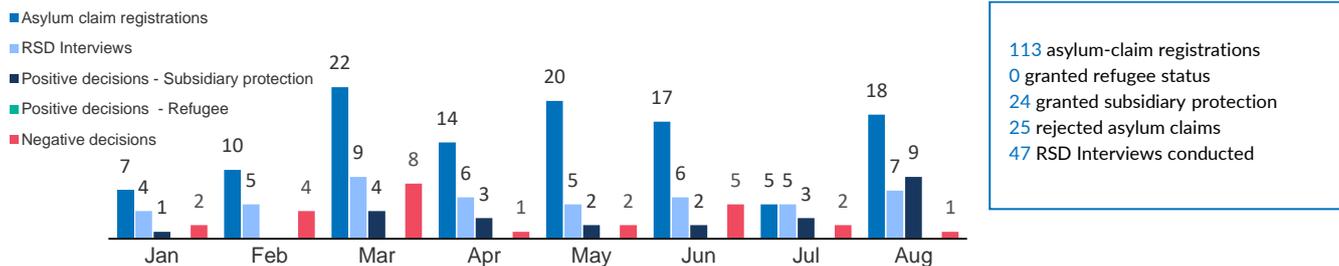


- 0** Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)
- 3** Single adult females
- 8** Children in families

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022

GENERAL PROTECTION ANALYSIS

In August, the average waiting time to register an asylum claim was 62 days, after the average time had decreased to 23 days in July.

UNHCR continues to work with the authorities to ensure better identification and prioritization of persons genuinely interested in asylum and improved scheduling. On that topic, it should be positively noted that 81% of asylum claim registrations scheduled for August were indeed conducted, which is the highest rate in 2022 (percentage of registrations scheduled compared with those conducted).

The Service for Foreigners Affairs (SFA) of the Ministry of Security BiH opened its draft work plan for 2023 to e-consultations in August, and in the document warned that the so far stable migrant situation in BiH may be destabilized in 2023 once Croatia enters Schengen. As per the work plan, Croatia will take over the protection of the EU's external borders and strengthen border surveillance and tighten the conditions for entering the country. The work plan also highlights that if the critical points on the borders with Serbia and Montenegro are not protected in a planned manner, migrants may still enter BiH but there would be a significant reduction in the exits to Croatia, which may complicate the humanitarian and security situation, especially in bordering areas.

DECISIONS FOR UKRAINIANS

In August and for the first time since the war started, the MoS/Sector for Asylum issued first-instance decisions to two Ukrainians, granting them subsidiary protection status. As of end of August, there were 228 Ukrainians in BiH. Most of them applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds instead of the asylum procedure.

Since 2018, of all persons arriving to BiH, 9 persons were granted refugee status and 140 persons subsidiary protection. Given the likely international protection needs of Ukrainians, UNHCR advocates 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.

ASYLUM AT THE AIRPORT

In August, UNHCR and partner Vaša Prava BiH legally intervened on two occasions as individuals were denied access to territory and asylum procedures. The individuals were held by the Border Police for forged documents and claimed asylum. As they were risking forced return and thus indirect refoulement, they contacted Vaša Prava from the airport. Vaša Prava and UNHCR's interventions towards the authorities resulted in measures to prevent deportation. In both cases, the European Court of Human Rights granted Rule 39 interim measures v. BiH. The individuals could enter Bosnian territory where they were explained how to access the asylum procedure.

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME 2018-2022, as of 31 August**


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.

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

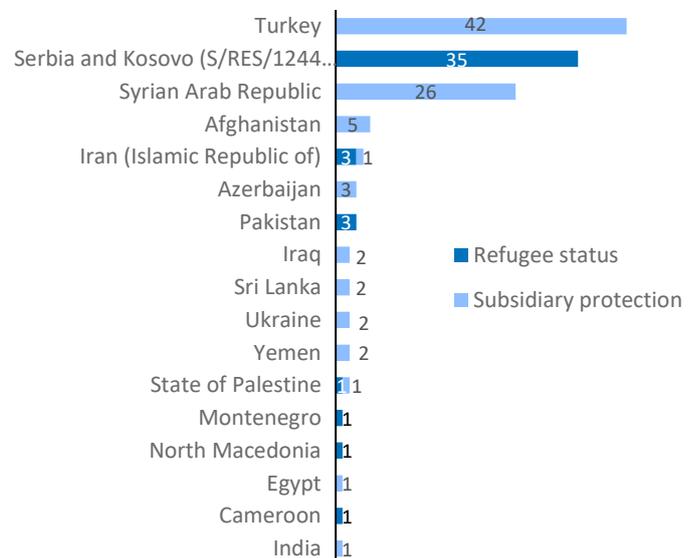
302 days
 Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview for RSD interviews held in 2022, as of 31 August

316 days
 Average processing time** for first instance decisions issued in 2022, as of 31 August

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2022

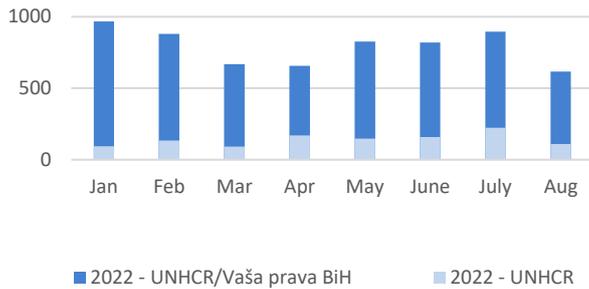
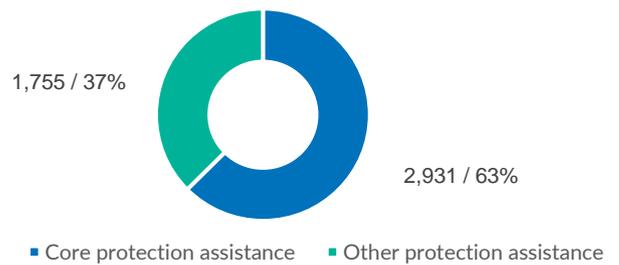
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications	1,572	785	245	167	113
Refugee ^x status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection ^x status granted	16	41	31	28	24
Rejected applications ^x	45	35	54	49	25
Otherwise closed [*]	741	1,059	546	184	108

^{*} Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin


ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN AUGUST 2022

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

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN 2022
PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID

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


As part of the 28th Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF), UNHCR BiH in partnership with SFF organised CineLink Talks panel session "How Contemporary Cinema Portrays Those Forced to Flee?"



UNHCR BiH in coordination with UN RCO Senior Human Rights Officer initiated a lecture on recognizing and countering hate speech within SFF's workshop on human rights for the youth from the Western Balkans

OTHER NEWS IN AUGUST

- On 16 August, UNHCR in partnership with Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) organised CineLink Talks panel session "How Contemporary Cinema Portrays Those Forced to Flee?", which has gathered more than 30 cinematographers, UNHCR representatives and other individuals who work directly with persons forced to flee their homes, to discuss the cinema industry's role in the portrayal of refugees and asylum-seekers. [More...](#)
- On 19 August, the World Humanitarian Day, UNHCR joined the UN community in marking the online campaign #ItTakesAVillage to commemorate humanitarian workers who have been killed and injured in the course of their work, and to honour those who continue to take risks every day to provide life-saving aid to people who need it.
- UNHCR in Bosnia and Herzegovina joined UN community in welcoming the [latest decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH](#) to adopt the Action Plan for the Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2021-2024.
- UNHCR BiH has launched 6 WhatsApp groups as a tool to create a reliable two-way communication channel with the refugee communities in their native languages. The groups are expected to also be an effective channel to gather feedback from refugees and asylum-seekers. The first six WhatsApp groups are in Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Pashtu, French and Ukrainian.

Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR BiH in 2022: [United States of America](#) | [European Union](#) | [Austria](#)