BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FACT SHEET

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

September 2022

As of 11 September, **14,134** asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants had arrived in BiH in 2022, a 16% increase from the **12,213** arrivals during the same period in 2021.

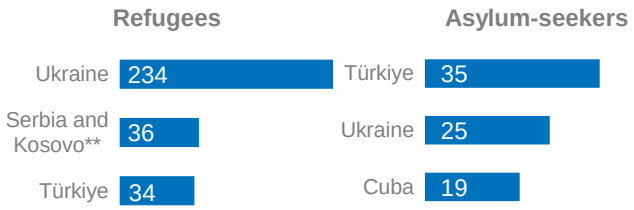
UNHCR works to improve **access to asylum** and **enhance the capacities** of the authorities to identify and refer persons in need of international protection to asylum authorities.

Since the #IBelong campaign's launch, BiH has made significant strides in resolving the issue of **statelessness**. A **Round Table** took place in Sarajevo in May to identify remaining obstacles.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	**349**
Asylum-seekers	**134**
Internally displaced persons	**96,305**
Stateless persons	**48**
Others of concern	**1,662**

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*



*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data
**S/RES/1244 (1999)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 231 refugees from Ukraine are currently present in BiH.

Counselling: UNHCR and its legal aid partner visited and/or identified refugees from Ukraine across BiH to inform them on the options to seek asylum in the country and access asylum procedure.

Identified Specific Needs: In view of the school year, UNHCR and UNICEF surveyed the educational needs of Ukrainian children in BiH. Joint visits were conducted, and 13 families (29 children) were interviewed. Results contributed to plan the education assistance, including the provision of laptops to enable continued learning.

Direct assistance: UNHCR in cooperation with the Catholic Relief Services and the BiH Red Cross Society prepared for the provision of vouchers to support Ukrainian refugees in purchasing food and hygienic items. Distribution is taking place in September, covering for September and August retroactively.

HIGHLIGHTS

136 asylum claims pending decision

as of end August 2022, which represents a 27% decrease compared to the same period last year (187 asylum claims pending as of end of August 2021).

113 asylum claims registered

as of end of August since the start of 2022, which represents a 25% increase compared to the same period last year (90 asylum claims registered as of end of August 2021).

Reduced waiting times for registration

The average waiting time to register an asylum claim in 2022 decreased significantly compared to previous years. The average number of days as of end of August 2022 was 73 days, which represents a 60% decrease compared to 2021 at the same period (181 days).

FIRST DAY IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUNG AZERBAIJANIS

The first day of school year was special for all students, but mostly for two young Azerbaijanis who, thanks to UNHCR's partner, the Foundation of the Bosnian Women's Initiative, continued their education in BiH. Read the story here.

Key Priorities

- **Protection monitoring:** In July, UNHCR participated in a regional protection monitoring exercise via 200 interviews with migrants and asylum-seekers in three Temporary Reception Centres. Results will inform UNHCR's protection actions, planning and advocacy.
- **Access to territory:** In August, UNHCR and partner Vaša Prava BiH legally intervened, as individuals were denied access to territory and asylum procedures.
- **Integration:** A bylaw on integration of persons under intentional protection entered into force in March, expanding the range of rights already guaranteed.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** A participatory assessment was conducted earlier in 2022 with persons of concerns to gain a deeper understanding of the protection problems they face.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR organizes media trainings and implements community projects to promote interactions between persons of concern and local communities. In September, two boys from Azerbaijan were admitted to the High School of Mechanical Engineering in Sarajevo, with support of partner BiH Women's Initiative (BHWI). More here.
- **Advocacy:** In April, UNHCR was invited to provide its comments on the draft Law on amendments to the Law on Aliens. Observations on refugee protection were shared with the government in June.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR supported increased capacity-building to the Ministry of Human rights and Refugees (MHRR) with the recruitment of three integration assistants. MHRR authorities participated in a study visit to Austria to exchange best practices.
- **IDPs:** UNHCR remains engaged in supporting realization of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement. UNHCR and its partner Vaša Prava BiH provide legal support for strategic cases.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR closely cooperates with the Ministry of Security and the MHRR on asylum, international protection, and integration, and with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs to enhance its first-line response capacity. Through partnerships with BHWI and Vaša Prava BiH, UNHCR ensures the provision of protection services during the asylum process. In cooperation with the Catholic Relief Services, UNHCR supports the integration of refugees.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR works to improve protection for persons of concern by stimulating public awareness and donor interest.

Statelessness

- BiH is a party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons by succession in 1993 and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness by accession in 1996. BiH has no specific designated statelessness determination in the asylum procedure and in the procedure of revising BiH citizenship, apart from on basis for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds.
- UNHCR and partners resolved 881 cases of persons at risk of statelessness since the start of the #iBelong campaign in 2014, including 54 cases in 2022 so far.
- In May, UNHCR organized a Round Table in Sarajevo on ending statelessness in BiH.

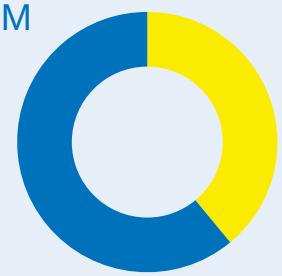
UNHCR Presence in BiH

Staff:	**Offices:**
29 National Personnel	1 Country Office in Sarajevo
7 International Personnel	1 Field Unit in Bihać
3 Interns	1 Field Unit in Tuzla

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 10.5 M



Funding gap 61% 6.4 M

Funded 39% 4.1M

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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.