

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**2,492** persons arrived irregularly in November, a 50% decrease compared to the previous month (5,010) and a 179% increase compared to November 2021 (893). Top three declared countries of origin are Afghanistan (61%), Cuba (9%), and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (6%).

The Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) issued an "Attestation of Expressed Intent to Seek Asylum" (AISA) to **92%** of them (**2,293** persons).

**14** persons registered their asylum claims with the Sector for Asylum (12 cases with persons from Türkiye, Afghanistan, Russian Federation, Algeria, Burundi, Pakistan and Syrian Arab Republic).

Out of 6 scheduled, **4** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted.

**6** decisions\* (4 cases involving 6 persons) were issued, 1 granting subsidiary protection and 5 negative decisions.

**1,745** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of November.

Average waiting time\*\*\* for the 14 individuals who registered their asylum claim in November was **53** days.

## KEY POPULATION OF CONCERN AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

**20** people awaiting registration of their asylum claims with the assistance of UNHCR / Vaša Prava BiH

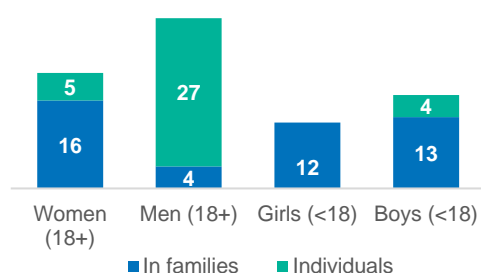
**81** asylum-seekers pending processing and decision

**147** persons under international protection, of which **45** under refugee status and **102** under subsidiary protection

**28** stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

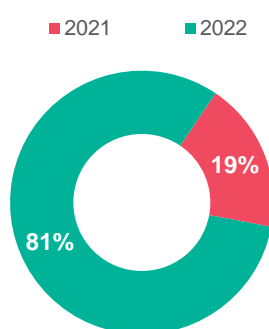
## ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF NOVEMBER: 81

AGE AND GENDER

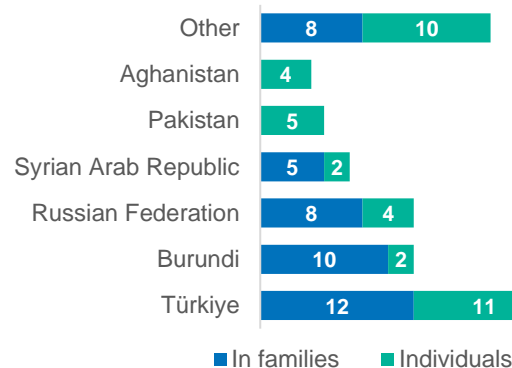


**5** Single adult females  
**29** Children, among which **4** unaccompanied or separated children

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

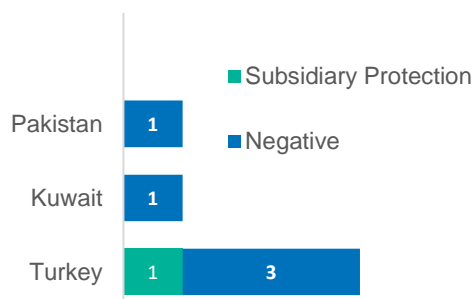


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



## DECISIONS\* IN NOVEMBER

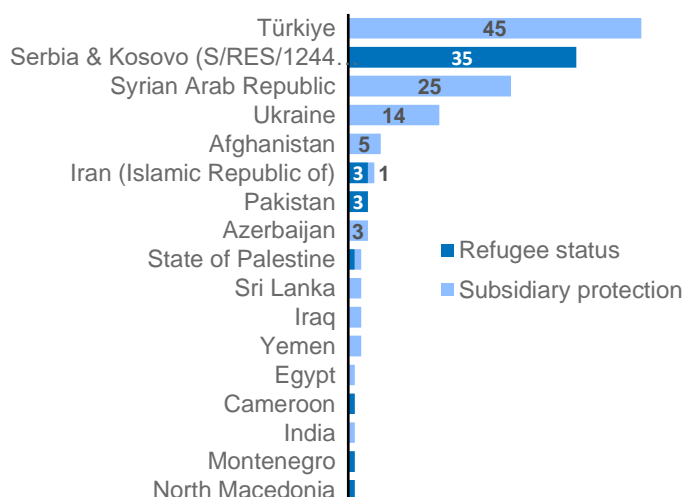
### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding.  
 \*\* Average processing time (days) from asylum-claim registration to first-instance decision (at case level). Appealed decisions are not included.  
 \*\*\* Waiting time (days) between AISA issuance and asylum-claim registration date (at case level), excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.

## PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



## ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE

UNHCR advocates for effective access to the asylum procedure at any point in time and in space for persons in need of international protection and who wish to pursue asylum in BiH. This includes access to asylum from the Immigration Centre or from the Sarajevo International Airport. In November 2022, there were indications of an improved practice at the airport, as some asylum-seekers were allowed to express their intention to seek asylum in BiH without intervention from UNHCR or its partner Vaša Prava BiH, which is positive. However, some other persons wishing to apply for asylum, and for instance facing the language barrier, have been denied access to the procedure, which puts them at risk of *refoulement* and is contrary to the country's international obligations. The authorities must thus establish a mechanism whereby persons denied entry to the territory have, at minimum, access to a lawyer who can advise and counsel them accordingly.

Access to asylum should also be ensured from places of deprivation of liberty, such as in the Immigration Centre. In November 2022, several Syrian nationals with intention to seek asylum have been detained, including an unaccompanied minor. UNHCR together with UNICEF prepared a letter to the authorities advocating for alternative care arrangements in line with BiH's international obligations, notably the European Convention on Human Rights' Article 5. According to the Court's caselaw, other options must always be examined before taking a detention decision. Moreover, the detention of refugee and migrant children should not be used, and the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration in all measures affecting them.

Last but not least, access to the asylum procedure should also be possible by accessing to the territory via the land border. Among all the persons who cross into BiH irregularly via the land border, and who should all be informed about their right to seek asylum, the authorities should identify as early as possible those who are genuinely interested in pursuing asylum in the country and those who are vulnerable.

### UKRAINIAN NATIONALS STAYING IN BiH: 129 at the end of November

- 11 persons granted subsidiary protection
- 2 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision
- 1 person issued with an AISA
- 114 persons applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which allows to stay up to six months but without rights (besides residency)
- 1 person staying on non-visa regime, which allows to stay for 30 days but without rights

### ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 – 2022

	2020	2021	2022
<i>Applications</i>	245	167	137
<i>Refugee* status</i>	1	5	0
<i>Subsidiary protection* status</i>	31	28	40
<i>Rejected applications*</i>	54	49	27
<i>Otherwise closed*</i>	546	184	146

### ASYLUM PROCEDURE TIMEFRAME at the end of November

#### 68 days

Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2022

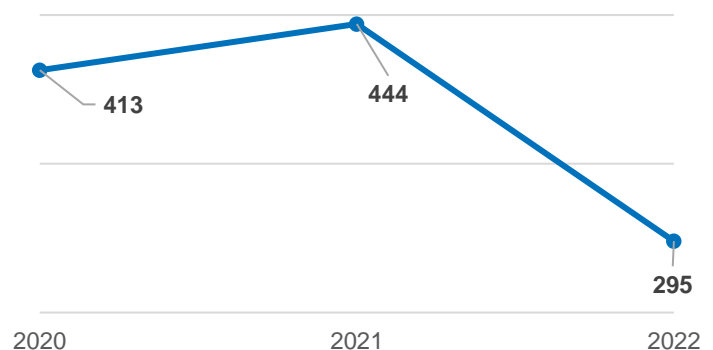
#### 281 days

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

#### 295 days

Average processing time\*\* for first-instance decisions issued in 2022

### AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME\*\* 2020-2022 at the end of November



\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding.

\*\* Average processing time (days) from asylum-claim registration to first-instance decision (at case level). Appealed decisions are not included.

\*\*\* Waiting time (days) between AISA issuance and asylum-claim registration date (at case level), excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS IN NOVEMBER

- **558** persons provided with information on access to asylum in BiH
- **60** persons assisted with free legal aid on access to asylum in BiH
- **546** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **3** cases of stateless and at risk of statelessness resolved
- **5** strategic/priority cases of IDPs and returnees resolved
- On 11 November, 20 families of displaced persons and returnees in the Gorazde town were handed-out keys of new housing units, built within the Country Housing Programme of the Regional Housing Programme ([Facebook post](#)).
- On 16 – 17 November, UNHCR organized a training for the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) in Neum, attended by more than 25 SFA inspectors and profiling / migration assistants. The training focused on capacity building in the areas of registration, interview techniques, and harmonized approaches in recording individuals' intention to seek asylum countrywide ([Facebook post](#)).



Nine-year-old Yazan from Syria symbolically took on the role of UNHCR Representative on the occasion of World Children's Day



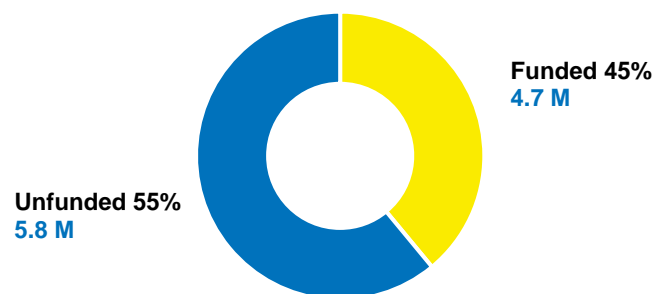
Roundtable organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe on protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, 22-23 November

## NEWS & EVENTS

- On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, UNHCR BiH published a [human-interest story](#) featuring 23-year-old Eldin from Sarajevo. He is one of 72 persons at risk of statelessness who got their documents in 2022 with the support of UNHCR's partner Vaša Prava BiH.
- As part of World Children's Day celebrations, UNHCR participated in an inter-agency initiative led by UNICEF where children symbolically took on the roles of adults and sent messages about their rights through a [video](#). Nine-year-old Yazan from Syria, who with his mother found refuge in BiH, symbolically acted as Representative of the UNHCR office in Sarajevo in dedicated [video](#).
- Together with the Council of Europe, UNHCR organized a roundtable event on 22-23 November. Experts from the European Court for Human Rights shared expertise and best-practice with local authorities on protection of refugees and asylum-seekers including in the event of removal ([Facebook post](#)).

## FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 10.5 million**



UNHCR BiH is grateful for the support of its 2022 donors: [United States of America](#) | [European Union](#) | [Austria](#)

To implement its 2022 programme, UNHCR cooperates with [government partners](#), the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the Ministry of Security, and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, as well as [NGO partners](#), the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative, the Catholic Relief Services and Vaša Prava BiH.