

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**2,065** persons arrived irregularly in April, which remained stable compared to the previous month (1,960). Top three declared countries of origin are Afghanistan (40%), Morocco (18%) and Cuba (7%)\*.

**1,092** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of April, while some 150-250 persons are estimated to be outside of formal accommodation.

Out of total irregular arrivals in April, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) issued an "Attestation of Expressed Intent to Seek Asylum" (AISA) to **92%** of them (**1,920** persons)\*.

**6** persons registered their asylum claims with the Sector for Asylum (6 cases with persons from Türkiye and the Russian Federation).

**3** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted.

**3** decisions\*\* (3 cases involving 3 persons) were issued, 2 granting subsidiary protection and 1 negative.

## KEY POPULATION DATA AT THE END OF APRIL

**15** persons awaiting registration of their asylum claims with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH

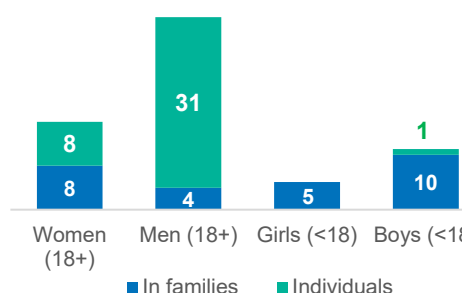
**67** asylum-seekers pending processing and final decision

**157** persons under international protection, of which **45** under refugee status and **112** under subsidiary protection

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

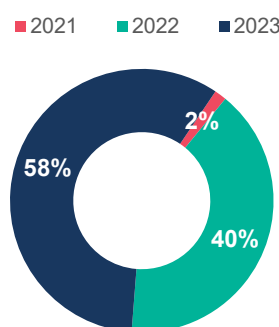
## ASYLUM SEEKERS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF APRIL

AGE AND GENDER

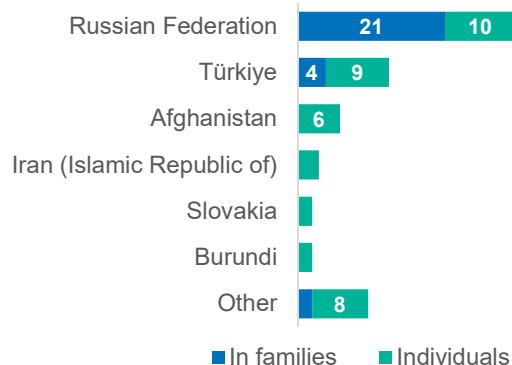


**8** single adult females  
**16** children, among which **1** unaccompanied or separated child

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

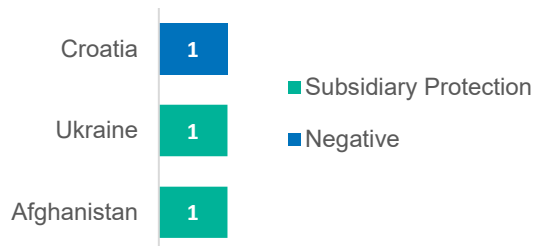


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



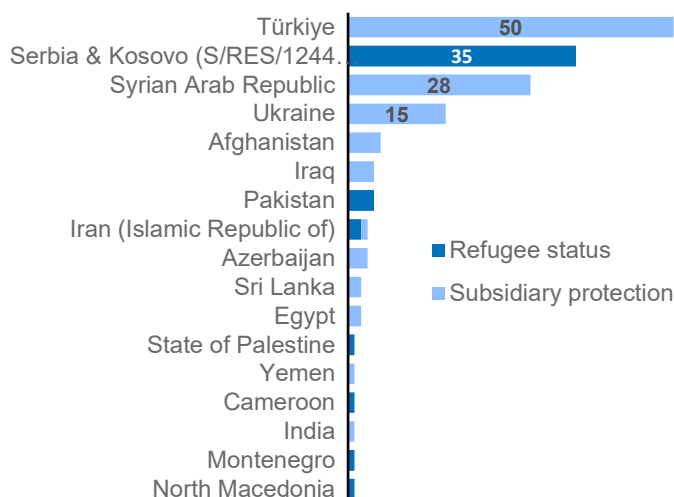
## DECISIONS\*\* IN APRIL

### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



## PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AT THE END OF APRIL

### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



\* Data based on weekly statistics from the Ministry of Security.

\*\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of persons covered by decisions.

\*\*\* 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 (at case level), excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.

## TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE FREE LEGAL AID SYSTEM

Together with other UN agencies in BiH, UNHCR is enhancing its advocacy efforts in favour of the strengthening of the national country-wide free legal aid system. The capacity of the BiH authorities to provide free legal aid should be enhanced to ensure that asylum-seekers, persons granted international protection and stateless persons can access quality legal services throughout the country. The current governmental free legal aid system is unable to respond to the needs, thus there are gaps in terms of comprehensive legal and administrative framework, including funding, staffing, expertise and interpretation.

## VULNERABILITIES

Among all the persons who cross into BiH irregularly, those who are genuinely interested in pursuing asylum in the country and those who are vulnerable should be identified as early as possible, and their cases should be prioritized. It is key to channel vulnerable applicants in priority for asylum processing due to their accrued need to access protection, associated services and durable solutions.

Vulnerable asylum-seekers include, among others, unaccompanied and separated children, older people, persons with disabilities, persons with serious health conditions, survivors of gender-based violence or of torture, pregnant women, LGBTIQ+ persons. In these situations, priority processing of the asylum claim should mean faster procedures to register the application, but also to get the interview scheduled and completed, and to receive decision from the authorities.

### UKRAINIAN NATIONALS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24 FEBRUARY 2022 STAYING IN BiH: 171 at the end of April

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

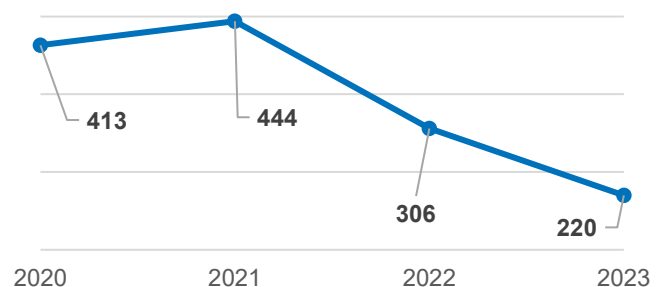
### ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 – 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Applications</i>	245	167	149	48
<i>Refugee** status</i>	1	5	0	1
<i>Subsidiary protection** status</i>	31	28	46	18
<i>Rejected applications**</i>	54	49	26	8
<i>Otherwise closed**</i>	546	184	162	24

### ASYLUM PROCEDURE TIMEFRAME at the end of April

- 44 days**  
Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\*\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2023
- 191 days**  
Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview, for RSD interviews held in 2023
- 220 days**  
Average processing time\*\*\* for first-instance decisions issued in 2023

### AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME\*\*\* 2020-2023 at the end of April



\*\* 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 APRIL

- Some **300** persons were provided with information related to asylum in BiH
- Some **60** persons were assisted with free legal aid related to asylum in BiH
- More than **200** persons were assisted with psychosocial support
- 1** case of stateless and at risk of statelessness resolved
- 2** strategic / priority case of IDPs and returnees resolved
- Some 30 information sessions on the asylum procedure and integration possibilities in BiH were organized in Tuzla as well as in Temporary Reception Centres, including joint sessions with IOM. Majority of participants were from Afghanistan, Morocco, Pakistan, Iran and Algeria, among which many could be in need of international protection. UNHCR's partner Vaša prava BiH noticed increased interest for free legal aid services at the Immigration Centre but access to this detention center remains cumbersome.
- To mark the Easter holidays, an art therapy workshop was held with refugees from Ukraine and from Turkey to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue.



Launch event and presentation of the UNHCR BiH Participatory Assessment 2022 Report in Tuzla



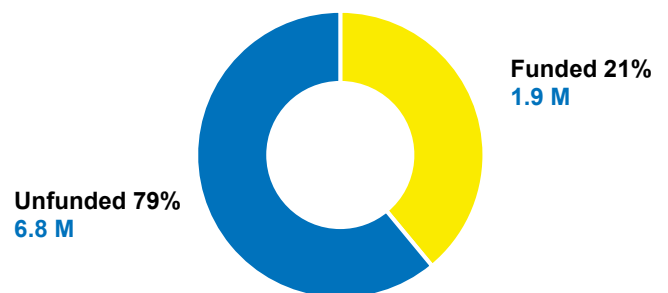
Art therapy workshop to mark the Easter holidays period organized by UNHCR's partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative

## NEWS & EVENTS

- On 24 April, UNHCR marked the end of the **renovation of the Safe House *Vive Žene*** in Tuzla. Together with the Catholic Relief Services, UNHCR renovated and improved conditions in a total of five safe house accommodations throughout the country for vulnerable individuals, which are made available for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Following the launch of the **UNHCR BiH Participatory Assessment 2022 Report** in Sarajevo last month, similar events were organized in the course of April in Bihac and Tuzla. Based on feedback from refugees, asylum-seekers and persons under subsidiary protection in BiH, the report serves as a roadmap to all stakeholders for addressing the needs of asylum-seekers and persons granted international protection in the country, ensuring they receive the support necessary for a safe and dignified life.

## FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.7 million**



UNHCR BiH is grateful for the support of its 2023 donors: **European Union | United States of America**

To implement its 2023 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.