

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**2,772** persons arrived irregularly in June, a slight decrease compared to the previous month (2,893).

Top three declared countries of origin are Afghanistan (42%), Morocco (24%) and Bangladesh (11%).\*

**1,348** asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of June, while some 200 persons are estimated to be outside of formal accommodation.

Out of total irregular arrivals in June, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) issued an "Attestation of Expressed Intent to Seek Asylum" (AISA) to **95%** of them (**2,642** persons).\*

**5** persons registered their asylum claims with the Sector for Asylum (3 cases with persons from the Russian Federation, Afghanistan and Türkiye).

**1** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interview was conducted.

**0** decision\*\* issued. 3 applications were otherwise closed (3 cases).

## KEY POPULATION DATA AT THE END OF JUNE

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

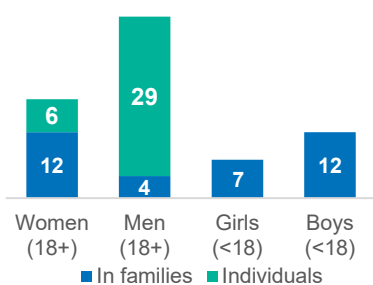
**70** asylum-seekers pending processing and final decision

**156** persons under international protection, of which **46** under refugee status and **110** under subsidiary protection

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

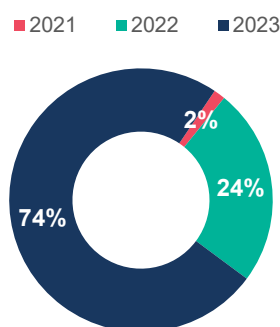
## ASYLUM SEEKERS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF JUNE

AGE AND GENDER

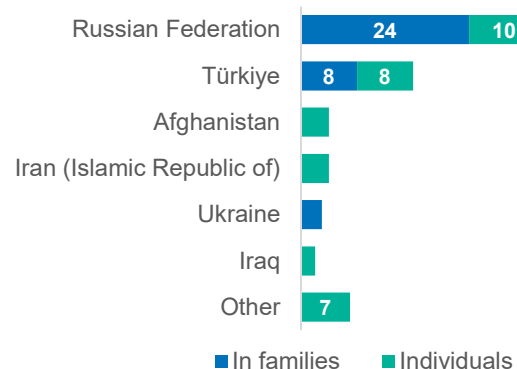


**6** single adult females  
**19** children, among which **0** unaccompanied or separated child

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

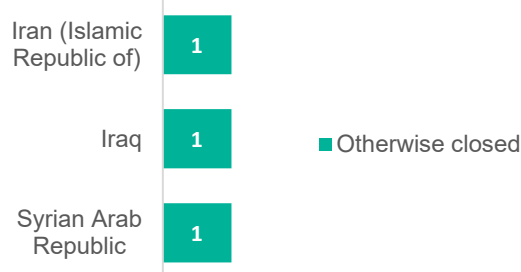


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



## DECISIONS\*\* IN JUNE

### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



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

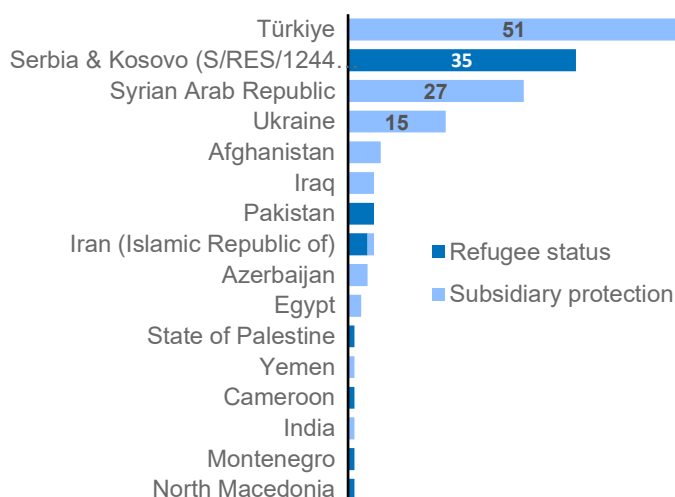
\*\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of persons covered by decisions.

\*\*\* 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.

## PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AT THE END OF JUNE

### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



## ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

An increase in irregular arrivals from the Russian Federation recorded by BiH authorities was already noted late 2022, and this trend continued in the first semester of 2023. Many Russian nationals also reach BiH legally through the no-visa regime, and some of them may have a fear of return to their country of origin and may be in need of international protection. In 2022, 36 Russian nationals expressed intention to seek asylum in BiH and 15 registered an asylum claim. In 2023 so far, 27 registered an asylum claim in BiH and currently, 34 Russian nationals are awaiting a decision on their asylum application. To date, only three refugee status determination interviews were conducted in BiH and no decision in merit were taken since the war in Ukraine started.

UNHCR calls for the Ministry of Security's Sector for Asylum to ensure that persons who meet the legal definition of a refugee are granted refugee status rather than subsidiary protection, which is a default option that should only be considered after concluding that the person does not meet the refugee criteria.

Applications should always be examined individually, including on cases related to the political ground of refusing to take part in the war of aggression in Ukraine. According to the [UNHCR Handbook](#), where the type of military action with which the asylum-seeker does not wish to be associated is condemned by the international community as contrary to basic rules of human conduct, punishment for desertion or draft evasion could be regarded as persecution and lead to granting of refugee status.

### UKRAINIAN NATIONALS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24 FEBRUARY 2022 STAYING IN BiH: 179 at the end of June

- 14** persons granted subsidiary protection
- 3** asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision
- 5** persons issued with an AISA
- 156** 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

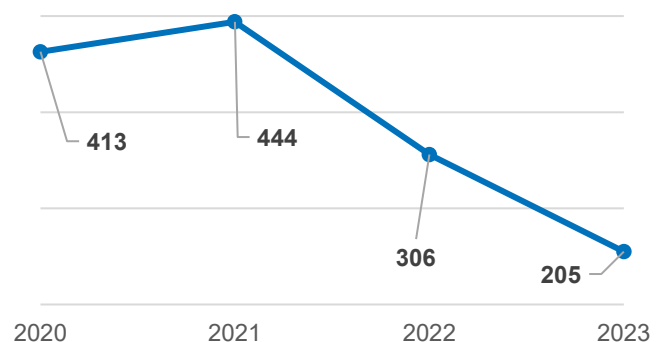
### ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 – 2023

|                                       | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Applications</i>                   | 245  | 167  | 149  | 64   |
| <i>Refugee** status</i>               | 1    | 5    | 0    | 2    |
| <i>Subsidiary protection** status</i> | 31   | 28   | 46   | 21   |
| <i>Rejected applications**</i>        | 54   | 49   | 26   | 8    |
| <i>Otherwise closed**</i>             | 546  | 184  | 162  | 29   |

### ASYLUM PROCEDURE TIMEFRAME at the end of June

- 42 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
- 205 days**  
Average processing time\*\*\* for first-instance decisions issued in 2023

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



\*\* 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 JUNE

- Some **350** persons were provided with information related to asylum in BiH
- Some **70** persons were assisted with free legal aid related to asylum in BiH
- Some **900** persons were assisted with psychosocial support
- 5** cases of stateless and at risk of statelessness resolved
- 2** strategic / priority cases of IDPs and returnees resolved
- For a few months, UNHCR's partner Vaša prava BiH noticed increased interest for free legal aid services at the Immigration Centre but access was cumbersome. In June, Vaša prava BiH obtained access to the detention centre to provide information to three persons, including an asylum-seeker.
- Integration plans were developed for two households, which are holistic integration programmes for persons under international protection. In addition, three persons under international protection were assisted in their socio-economic inclusion (identification and assessment of potential employers, accompaniment to job interviews, etc.). One person signed a work agreement during the month.



Unveiling of a mural in the Sarajevo Canton at the occasion of World Refugee Day



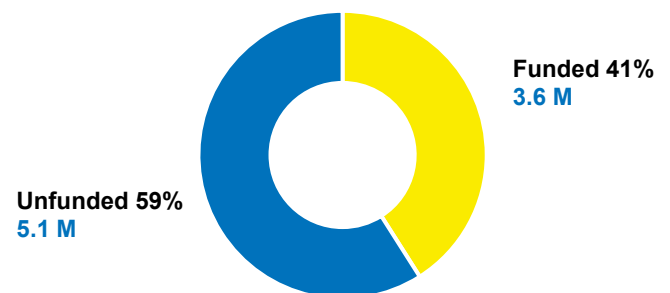
Persons in need of international protection attending local language classes in Sarajevo

## NEWS & EVENTS

- To celebrate World Refugee Day, a mural was unveiled, representing the hospitality of the local community in BiH towards refugees. The mural is located in the Municipality of Ilidža, which has welcomed numerous refugees forced to leave their homes. It was painted by students of the Sarajevo Academy of Fine Arts together with an asylum-seeker.
- On the occasion of the Pride Month, UNHCR co-organized a movie screening followed by a panel discussion about the challenges LGBTIQ+ refugees face, and the opportunities they have in BiH. Focus was put on the importance of a welcoming community for LGBTIQ+ refugees and positive practices were shared by UNHCR's partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative working with vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking populations in BiH.

## 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.