

# Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

**1,953** persons arrived irregularly in May, indicating a stable trend compared with the previous month.<sup>1</sup>

Top three declared countries of origin are the Syrian Arab Republic (31%), Afghanistan (21%) and Türkiye (8%).<sup>1</sup>

**83%** of them were issued an “Attestation on Intention to Seek Asylum” (AISA).<sup>1</sup>

**1,475** asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of the month.

The Sector for Asylum of the Ministry of Security (MoS) registered the asylum claims of **13** persons and conducted **9** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

**7** decisions were issued, five granting subsidiary protection and two negative. One application was suspended / terminated.<sup>2</sup>

## SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END MAY)

**54** persons represented by UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH waiting for the registration of their asylum claim

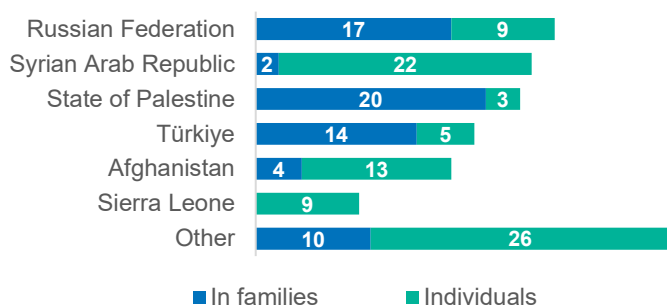
**154** asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

**208** persons under international protection (**44** with refugee status and **164** under subsidiary protection)

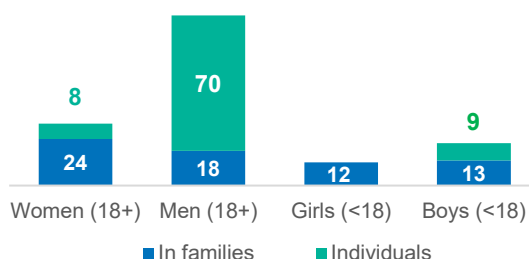
**20** stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

## ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AT THE END OF MAY)

### TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

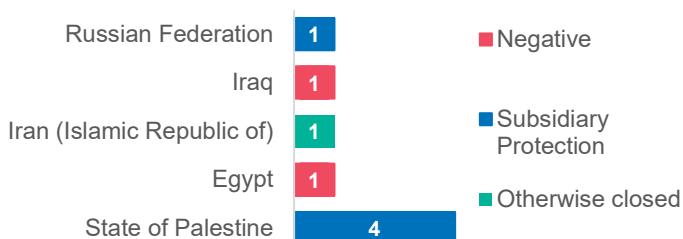


### AGE AND GENDER



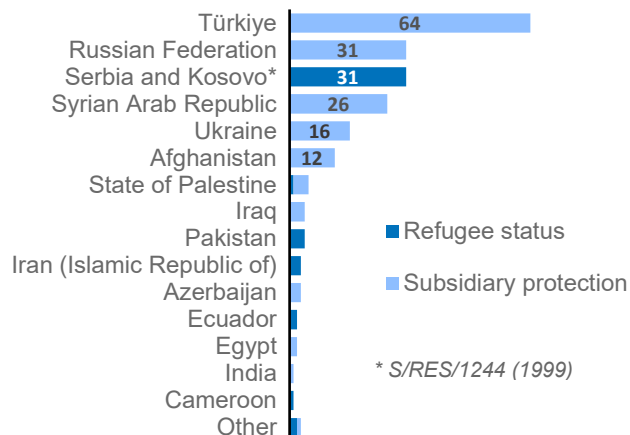
## DECISIONS<sup>2</sup> IN MAY

### PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



## PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AT THE END OF MAY)

### TOP-15 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



\* S/RES/1244 (1999)

<sup>1</sup> Data based on weekly statistics from the Ministry of Security.

<sup>2</sup> Decisions not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of persons covered by decisions.

## FOSTERING INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

Through employment, refugees become socio-economically empowered and entrusted actors in their host communities and agents of their own inclusion. UNHCR's partner the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) organized a presentation of the Public Employment Service programmes that are available to persons under international protection in BiH, which include, among others, vocational training for the labor market, acquiring knowledge and skills for self-employment, employment opportunities with identified employers. As a next step, CRS facilitated the online registration for eight refugees, enabling them to actively seek job opportunities. Unemployed persons who are registered in the records of municipal bureaus and who have an international protection status are eligible to use the programmes offered by the public employment services, and therefore have equal status on the labor market in the Sarajevo Canton as BiH citizens.

Building on this momentum, UNHCR, together with CRS, as well as the Sarajevo Canton and Federation of BiH Employment Offices, organized a three-day job counselling workshop, with the participation of 11 persons under international protection from Türkiye, Afghanistan and Iran who chose to build a brighter future in BiH. Participants learned more about job search strategies, how to write a CV and a cover letter, and preparation techniques for successful job interviews. As a results, eight persons under international protection applied for employment measures in the Sarajevo Canton. The support of the private sector is also crucial for encouraging inclusivity and the possibility of active integration into BiH society.

### UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 233 PERSONS (AT THE END OF MAY)

15 persons under subsidiary protection

6 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

1 person issued with an AISA

211 persons applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which allows to stay up to six months, but without rights (besides residency)

### ASYLUM OVERVIEW (2022 – 2024)

	2022	2023	2024
Applications	149	147	94
Refugee status <sup>2</sup>	0	4	0
Subsidiary protection status <sup>2</sup>	46	63	37
Rejected applications <sup>2</sup>	26	9	8
Procedure terminated <sup>2</sup>	162	41	10

<sup>2</sup> Decisions not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of persons covered by decisions.

### AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 271 DAYS

Average time from AISA issuance to first-instance decision, for decisions issued during the last six months, excluding those registered in detention.



### ASYLUM PROCESSING BACKLOG

**69 DAYS**

Average waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, excluding detention cases. This waiting time covers claims registered in the last six month. It has increased compared with the previous six months period, when it averaged 40 days.

**255 DAYS**

Over 30% of asylum-seekers pending RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (255 days in average). These cases should be prioritized, as per the Law on Asylum, waiting time from registration to decision should be up to six months, and exceptionally up to 18 months.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN MAY

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **235** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **108** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **153** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **113** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- UNHCR and CRS support the socio-economic integration of refugee entrepreneurs through small business grants. In May, we were supporting a Syrian entrepreneur woman under subsidiary protection with activities necessary to open a restaurant. The goal is to help her generate a sustainable income, promote female entrepreneurship, and empower her as an actor in her community.
- Social, recreational, and occupational activities are organized to boost the mental health of forcibly displaced people. In May, three Syrian children under subsidiary protection started taekwondo classes in Sarajevo and an Ukrainian boy under subsidiary protection successfully participated in an international dance competition.



Workshop in Sarajevo for police officers on cooperation on asylum and migration management @UNHCR



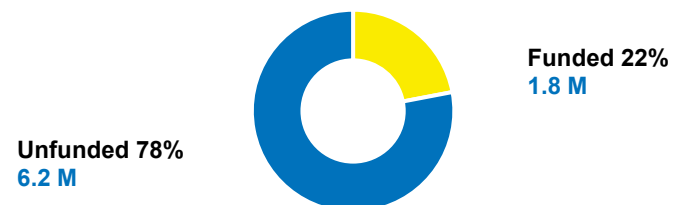
Job counselling workshop attended by 11 persons under international protection in BiH @UNHCR/CRS

## NEWS & EVENTS

- In May, UNHCR, together with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the OSCE in BiH and other UN agencies, organized workshops for some 130 police officers on various aspects of practical cooperation on asylum and migration management. Sessions were held in Goražde, Trebinje, Foča, Sarajevo and Prijedor. UNHCR provided an overview and definitions of populations in mixed movements, as well as key steps in the asylum procedure in the country.
- In support of the public free legal aid system in BiH, on 22 May, UNHCR and its legal partner Vaša Prava BiH organized a roundtable on the free legal aid system in Belgium. The event explored how key elements of the Belgian system could be applied in the BiH context to improve legal practice and ensure access to justice for all. Some 40 participants from the Ministries of Justice, governmental free legal aid providers, lawyers, as well as all relevant institutions and international actors in this field.

## FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.0 million**



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2024 global programmes.

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.

UNHCR BiH is grateful to the donors to its 2024 programme.  
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