

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

1,805 persons arrived irregularly in June, which is eight per cent less compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are the Syrian Arab Republic (34%), Afghanistan (23%) and Morocco (9%).¹

87% of them were issued an “Attestation on Intention to Seek Asylum” (AISA).¹

1,561 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 **17** persons and conducted **5** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

11 decisions were issued, one granting refugee status, nine granting subsidiary protection and one negative. Three applications were suspended / terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END JUNE)

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

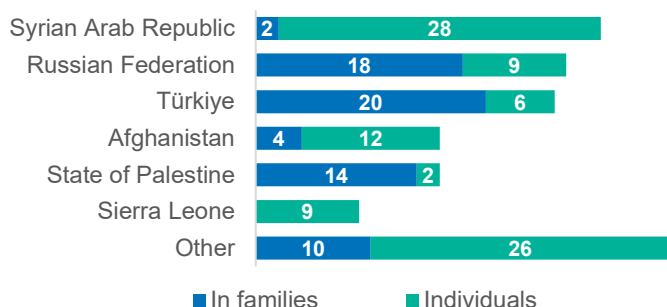
160 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

218 persons under international protection (**44** with refugee status and **174** under subsidiary protection)

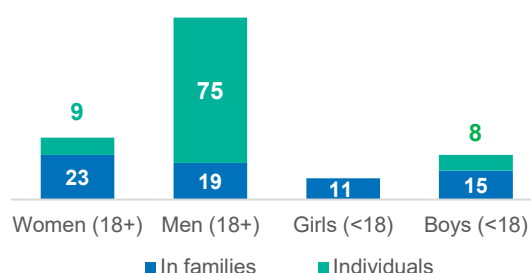
18 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AS OF END JUNE)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

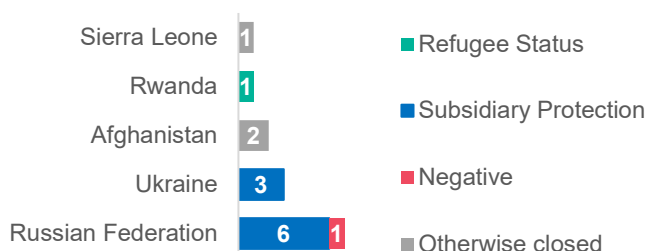


AGE AND GENDER



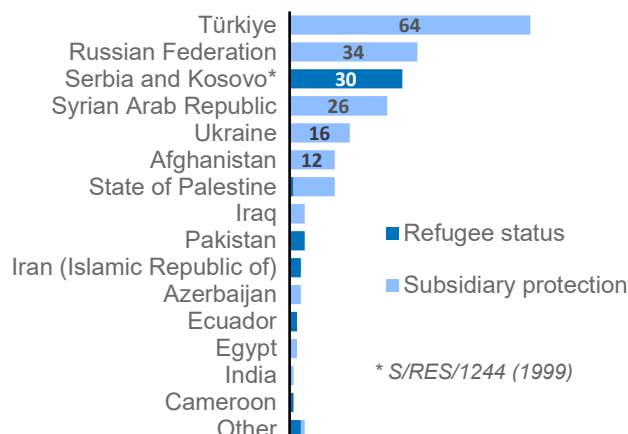
DECISIONS² IN JUNE

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AS OF END JUNE)

TOP-15 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



* S/RES/1244 (1999)

¹ Data based on weekly statistics from the Ministry of Security.

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

MID-YEAR ASYLUM STATE-OF-PLAY

While the number of irregular arrivals recorded by BiH authorities at mid-year remained stable compared with the same period in 2023, a sharp increase in asylum claim registrations was noted. 111 asylum-seekers had their claims registered by the authorities, which is an increase by over 70% compared with the first half of 2023. New applications were mostly submitted by Syrian, Palestinian and Turkish nationals. UNHCR commends the efforts made by BiH authorities to increase the pace of registration of asylum applications, which is a key first step in ensuring protection and access to rights for forcibly displaced people.

However, there are currently 135 asylum-seekers awaiting Refugee Status Determination interview, which is the crucial next step in the procedure. Close to a third of them have been waiting for more than six months, creating backlog and delaying access to a wide range of rights for those in need of international protection. These cases should be processed timely, considering that as per the Law on Asylum, waiting time from registration to decision should be up to six months, and exceptionally up to 18 months. UNHCR considers that for manifestly well-founded claims, the authorities should implement faster and simplified procedures to reduce the overall length of the procedure and the workload of the Sector for Asylum personnel.

Regarding the type of positive decisions issued, one person was granted refugee status and 46 persons, mostly from the Russian Federation and Palestine, received subsidiary protection status in the first semester of 2024.² UNHCR considers that many persons who deserve refugee status were instead granted subsidiary protection status, denying them access to a durable solution, such as naturalization. There is still a major overreliance on subsidiary protection as currently in BiH, only refugee status warrants access to family reunification, travel documentation and a path to naturalization.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 245 PERSONS (AT THE END OF JUNE)

15 persons under subsidiary protection

6 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

1 person issued with an AISA

223 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	111
Refugee status ²	0	4	1
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	46
Rejected applications ²	26	9	9
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	13

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 293 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

77 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.

262 DAYS

Over 30% of asylum-seekers pending RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (262 days in average). These cases should be processed timely, 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 JUNE

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **241** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **103** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **161** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **113** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- **2** cases of stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness resolved
- UNHCR, together with its partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI), initiated a new type of B/C/S language courses for refugees in BiH. Learning programmes are tailor-made to meet pre-identified integration needs, such as targeting language training towards a specific career path. In June, one person from Syria started with specialized lessons related to service work and catering, as she is in the process of opening a restaurant in Sarajevo. Another person from Türkiye also started language acquisition related to operating computer numerical control machines.



Performance by persons under international protection in BiH to mark World Refugee Day @UNHCR/MHRR



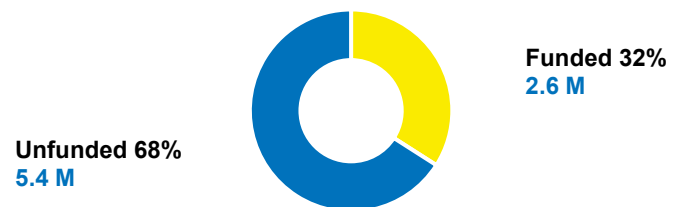
Syrian boy under international protection receiving his yellow belt in taekwondo @UNHCR/BHWI

NEWS & EVENTS

- The BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and UNHCR co-organized this year's World Refugee Day marking with an [event at an elementary school](#) in Ilidža where refugee children are enrolled. On 20 June, refugee and local children performed dances, songs and recitals, and presented handicrafts. The Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, Sevlid Hurtić, and UNHCR Representative, Lucie Gagné, unveiled a mural that was created jointly by refugee and local students of the elementary school, as part of a UNHCR/Artolution project aimed at fostering social cohesion and integration of persons under international protection in BiH in their host communities. In TRC Ušivak, sports competitions and games were organized for children. A World Refugee Day event was also held in Bihac, gathering asylum-seekers and local communities for football activities.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.0 million**



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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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