

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

1,803 persons arrived irregularly in October, which is 36 per cent less compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are Afghanistan (24%), Morocco (19%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (15%).¹

85% of them were issued an “attestation of the expressed intent to apply for asylum” (AISA).¹

1,385 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 **27** persons and conducted **12** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

9 positive decisions were issued, all granting subsidiary protection, while **1** negative decision was issued. Two applications were suspended /terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END OCTOBER)

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

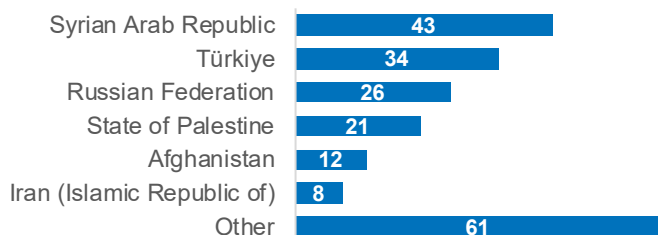
205 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

235 persons under international protection (**45** with refugee status and **190** under subsidiary protection)

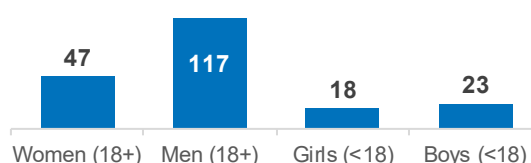
16 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AS OF END OCTOBER)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



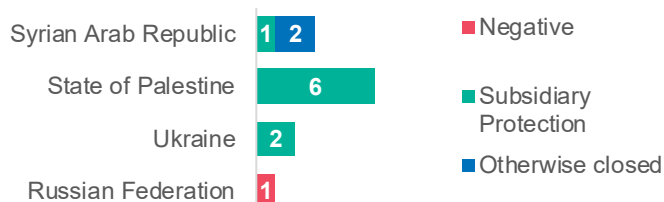
AGE AND GENDER



Of **41** children, **8** are unaccompanied or separated

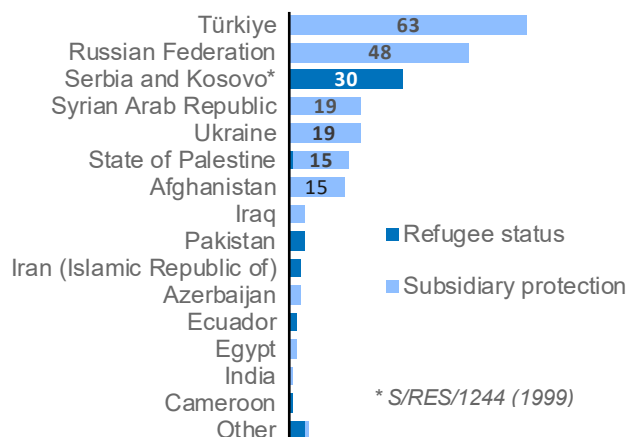
DECISIONS² IN OCTOBER

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AS OF END OCTOBER)

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.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC FREE LEGAL AID IN BIH

UNHCR and its legal aid partner Vaša prava BiH (VP BiH) have strengthened joint efforts to advocate for a harmonized and adequately funded public free legal aid system, available and accessible to forcibly displaced and stateless people across the country. In October, UNHCR, VP BiH and free legal aid offices from the state and cantonal (Sarajevo and Una-Sana) government levels participated in a workshop on international refugee law and legal aid for forcibly displaced and stateless people in BiH. The workshop was held at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy. It was designed to strengthen cooperation between the civil society organization VP BiH and BiH free legal aid institutions. The event served as a platform to discuss and share good practices, knowledge and experiences in providing free legal aid. The fruitful exchanges set the basis for the establishment of a referral mechanism between state and non-state free legal aid providers.

Additionally, VP BiH organized a roundtable on the harmonization of the public free legal aid system and access to justice for all vulnerable groups, including forcibly displaced and stateless people. The event gathered representatives of free legal aid offices from all government levels, NGOs, ministries of justice, the Ombudsman Institution, as well as international organizations.

These are positive developments, as the public legal aid system in BiH is only partially established and, in the majority of cases, forcibly displaced and stateless people are not covered or lack effective access.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 263 (AT THE END OF OCTOBER)

18 people under subsidiary protection

5 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

1 person with an AISA

239 people 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	199
Refugee status ²	0	4	2
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	69
Rejected applications ²	26	9	12
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	25

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 344 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

75 DAYS

Average waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, excluding detention cases. This waiting time covers claims registered in the last six months (May – Oct. 2024). It has increased compared with the previous six months period, when it was averaging 58 days (Nov. 2023 – Apr. 2024).

284 DAYS

Over 37% of asylum-seekers pending a RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (284 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 OCTOBER

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **332** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **91** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **134** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **94** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- Two workshops were held on the employment of people under international protection in BiH. This initiative, organized with the Catholic Relief Services, provided a better understanding of the experiences and obstacles faced by refugees in integrating in the workforce. The first group gathered refugees, and the second group staff from the BiH Federal Employment Office, the Sarajevo Canton Employment Service, and employers. They emphasized the need for UNHCR and its partners to continue supporting access to employment programmes, encouraging the use of municipal counselors, and addressing language barriers.



Group discussion on employment with people under international protection in BiH @CRS



Preparation of foods and hygiene parcels for vulnerable flood-affected households @UNHCR/CRS/Red Cross

NEWS & EVENTS

- UNHCR, with the OSCE and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, held two training-of-trainers workshops for police educators in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. Topics included international refugee law, national legislation and access to asylum in BiH, rights and obligations of people under international protection, trafficking and smuggling of people in mixed movements, etc. The workshops were attended by 54 lecturers from police schools and academies, and trainers from regional police offices from both entities.
- On October 24, the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and UNHCR co-hosted a roundtable on the right to social protection for people under international protection. Participants from institutions and NGOs that provide services to refugees in BiH shared their experiences with the application of social protection regulations, as well as their practical implementation.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.0 million**

Unfunded 37%
2.9 M



Funded 63%
5.1 M

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

[Australia](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Japan](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [New Zealand](#) | [Norway](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) | [United States of America](#)

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.

[United States of America](#) | [European Union](#) | [Italy](#)