

Bosnia and Herzegovina

3,967 persons arrived irregularly in July, an increase by 43% compared to the previous month (2,772). Top three declared countries of origin are Afghanistan (52%), Morocco (25%) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (4%).*

2,082 asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of July, while some 100 persons are estimated to be outside of formal accommodation.

Out of total irregular arrivals in July, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) issued an "Attestation on Intention to Seek Asylum" (AISA) to **95%** of them (**3,757** persons).*

13 persons registered their asylum claims with the Sector for Asylum (9 cases with persons from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic).

3 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interview were conducted.

5 decisions** (4 cases) were issued, 2 granting subsidiary protection (2 cases) and 3 negative (2 cases). 2 applications were otherwise closed (2 cases).

KEY POPULATION DATA AT THE END OF JULY

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

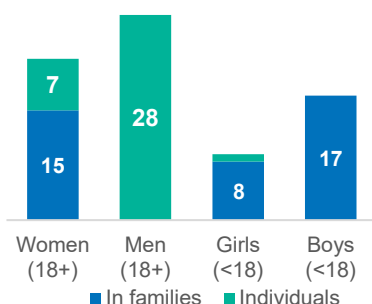
82 asylum-seekers pending processing and final decision

155 persons under international protection, of which **45** under refugee status and **110** under subsidiary protection

32 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

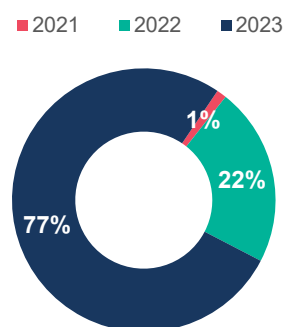
ASYLUM SEEKERS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF JULY

AGE AND GENDER

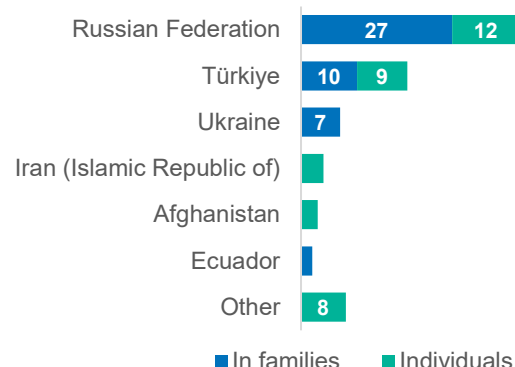


7 single adult females
26 children, among which **1** unaccompanied or separated child

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

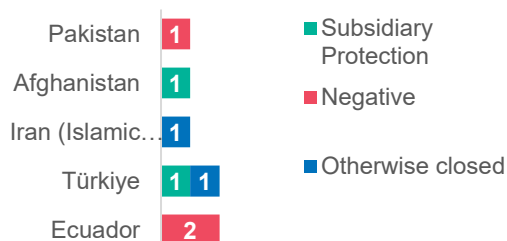


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



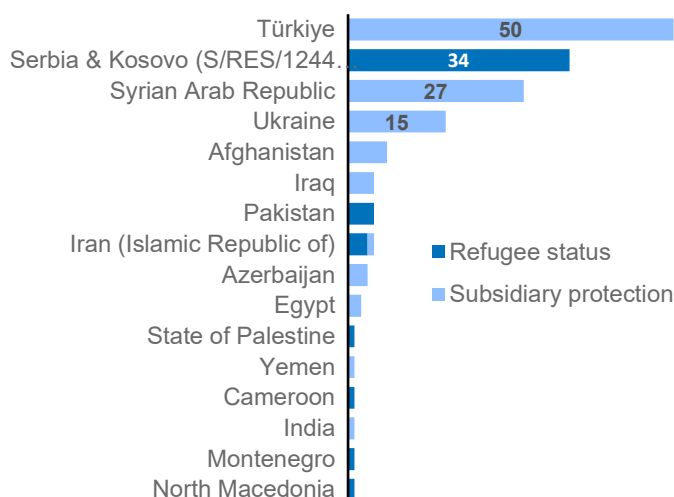
DECISIONS** IN JULY

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AT THE END OF JULY

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.

STATE OF PLAY OF ASYLUM STATISTICS FOR 2023

UNHCR cooperates with the BiH authorities and supports them to improve the asylum procedure's efficiency. In 2023 so far, almost every metric of the asylum processing has improved compared with the same period in 2022. For instance, the average waiting time to register an asylum claim decreased considerably to 44 days as of July 2023, while it was 181 days in 2021 and 64 days in 2022. The number of decisions issued in 2023 to date remained stable compared with the same period in 2022. However, the average processing time from registration to first-instance decision dropped by more than a third in 2023 so far (199 days) compared with 2022 (306), and more than half compared with 2021 (444 days). While processing time remains excessive, this significant reduction is a welcome development. This overall fastening is commendable as it allows persons in need of international protection to access the asylum procedure, protection, and thus their rights more rapidly. In addition, the number of persons who suspended their claims is much lower than in 2022, suggesting that as processing time decreases, fewer people are abandoning the procedure prior to receiving a decision.

The number of persons getting a positive decision increased from 15 in January – July 2022 to 25 in the same period in 2023, despite a smaller number of newly registered applications. This could be explained by the new profiles of applicants, including those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Regarding the type of positive decisions, while no refugee status was granted in 2022, two persons were already granted refugee status in 2023. While there is still a major overreliance on subsidiary protection, this is a positive step as for the moment in BiH, only refugee status provides access to family reunification, travel documentation and a path to naturalization.

UKRAINIAN NATIONALS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24 FEBRUARY 2022 STAYING IN BiH: 180 at the end of July

- 14** persons granted subsidiary protection
- 7** asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision
- 0** person issued with an AISA
- 159** persons applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which allows to stay up to six months but without rights (besides residency)

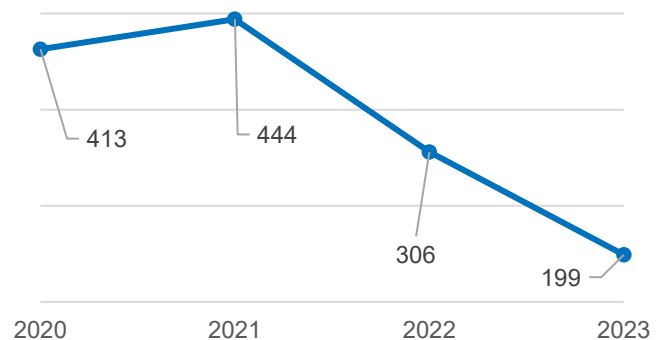
ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 – 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Applications</i>	245	167	149	77
<i>Refugee** status</i>	1	5	0	2
<i>Subsidiary protection** status</i>	31	28	46	23
<i>Rejected applications**</i>	54	49	26	9
<i>Otherwise closed**</i>	546	184	162	31

ASYLUM PROCEDURE TIMEFRAME at the end of July

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME*** 2020-2023 at the end of July



** 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 JULY

- **326** persons provided with information related to asylum in BiH
- **58** persons assisted with free legal aid related to asylum in BiH
- **1,680** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **59** persons attended local language class as part of integration path
- **1** case of stateless and at risk of statelessness resolved
- **1** strategic / priority case of IDPs and returnees resolved
- UNHCR assisted the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees to organize a [roundtable on the integration of persons under international protection](#) in BiH. Good practices were exchanged and discussions focused on how to overcome remaining challenges. The event was attended by 40 representatives of institutions at cantonal and municipal levels, centres for social work, tax administration, and UNHCR’s civil society partners.
- UNHCR, in cooperation with the Catholic Relief Service and the Red Cross societies, distributed voucher assistance to 176 refugees from Ukraine between the period August 2022 – June 2023. The round of distribution covering the period of July and August 2023 took place throughout the month of July.



Football match bringing together children from local football clubs and children from marginalized groups, using the Football3 methodology



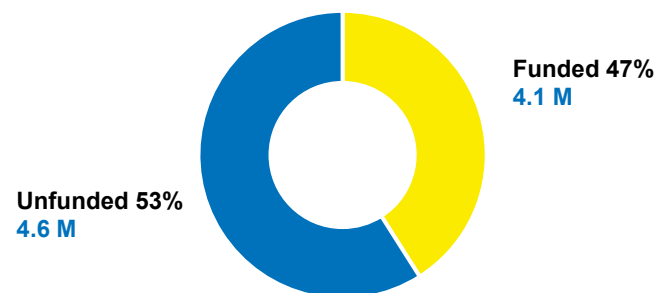
Persons under international protection and asylum-seekers after successfully passed their local language exam

NEWS & EVENTS

- In Bihać, activities for [social integration through football](#) were organized by UNHCR together with the National Football Association of BiH, with support from the UEFA. Children from local football clubs played with children from vulnerable groups, including from refugee, asylum-seeking, and migrant families, from Roma communities, etc. Coaches in children’s football associations and physical education teachers from elementary schools were trained on the Football3 method of playing football without referees and on how to use the game of football itself to educate and empower young people.
- UNHCR organized [two workshops](#) with journalists in Tuzla and Bihać, which are key entry and exit areas in the country. Focus was put on how to report and communicate on mixed movements, basic principles of international protection and how to portray vulnerable groups with dignity through photography.

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.