

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

2,032 persons arrived irregularly in April, which is a stable number compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are the Syrian Arab Republic (34%), Afghanistan (15%) and Morocco (8%).¹

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

1,115 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 **6** persons and conducted **8** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

16 decisions were issued, 14 granting subsidiary protection and two negative. Two applications were suspended / terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA AT THE END OF APRIL

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

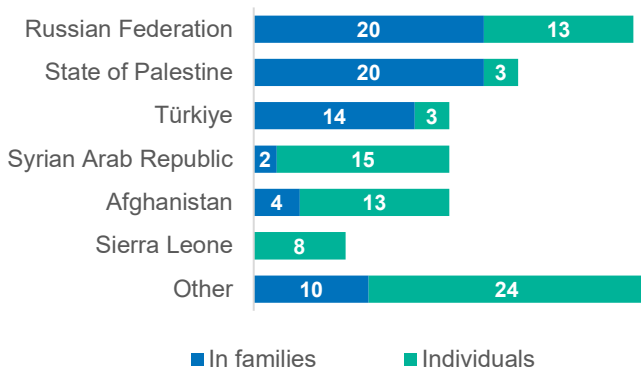
149 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

201 persons under international protection, of whom **44** with refugee status and **157** under subsidiary protection

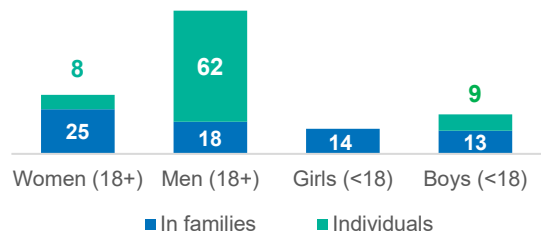
20 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS AT THE END OF APRIL

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



AGE AND GENDER

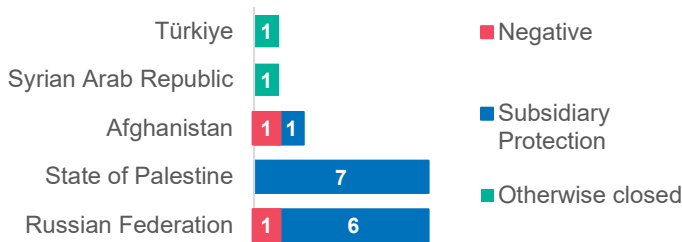


8 single adult females

36 children, among which **9** unaccompanied or separated children

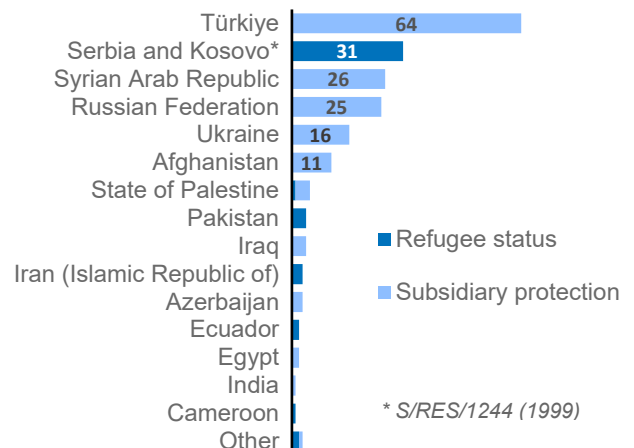
DECISIONS² IN APRIL

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AT THE END OF APRIL

TOP-FIFTEEN 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.

QUALITY OF ASYLUM DECISIONS

In April, the BiH authorities handed the first decisions on asylum claims of Palestinians evacuated from Gaza. In November 2023, the Council of Minister of BiH had adopted a decision to allow the entry of Palestinian relatives of BiH citizens who have been evacuated from Gaza. As there had been no agreement on their status prior to their arrival, 19 persons initiated the asylum process, considering that no other options were available. In April, the authorities issued first decisions for this population granting them subsidiary protection. UNHCR welcomes the government's decision to evacuate these Palestinian refugees, but has concerns over the subsidiary protection status that was granted to them. Unlike refugee status, subsidiary protection limits access to certain rights and does not provide prospects of a durable solution in the country, despite the fact that they are relatives of BiH citizens and have links with BiH. According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, to which BiH is a party, these persons – and those who did not receive a decision yet – would merit to be recognized as refugees. Subsidiary protection status limits their freedom of movement as they are not entitled to travel documents. They are also not entitled to family reunification, nor are they offered the opportunity to achieve a durable solution in BiH, such as permanent residence or naturalization.

UKRAINIAN NATIONALS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24 FEBRUARY 2022 STAYING IN BiH: 225 at the end of April

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

ASYLUM PROCEDURE TIMEFRAME at the end of April

67 days

Average waiting time between AISA issuance and asylum-claim registration, for claims registered in 2024 (at case level), excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison. However, the AISA is only valid up to 14 days.

157 days

Average time from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview (at case level), for RSD interviews held in 2024.

187 days (more than six months)

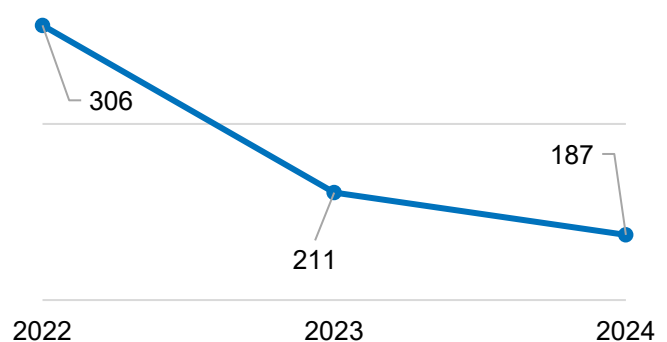
Average processing time from asylum-claim registration to first-instance decisions issued in 2024 (at case level). Appealed decisions are not included. Processing time as per the Law on Asylum should be up to six months, and exceptionally up to 18 months.

OVERVIEW OF ASYLUM PROCESSING FROM 2022 – 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Applications	149	147	81
Refugee status ²	0	4	0
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	32
Rejected applications ²	26	11	6
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	9

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME 2022-2024 at the end of April



ACHIEVEMENTS IN APRIL

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **174** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **105** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **152** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **95** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- **2** cases of stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness resolved
- UNHCR donated computers to asylum-seekers and persons under subsidiary protection in Tuzla and Brčko. This equipment will enable them to follow online local language classes and complete administrative tasks related to their status, such as registering with the employment bureaus.
- As part of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, UNHCR and its partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI) regularly organize group discussions on GBV with forcibly displaced people. In April, four women from Iran and Türkiye residing in TRC Ušivak attended such session on emotional abuse.



Roundtable for legal practitioners in BiH on international protection @UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH



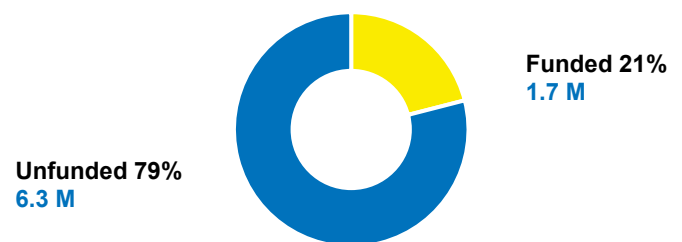
Donation of laptops to asylum-seekers and persons under international protection in the Tuzla and Brčko areas @UNHCR

NEWS & EVENTS

- On 26 April, together with UNHCR, Vaša prava BiH organized a roundtable for attorneys and legal practitioners. Focus was put on asylum, international protection, the legal representation of asylum-seekers, and related international and domestic standards and practices. This event contributed to strengthening the capacities of legal experts to provide adequate legal assistance and ensure the improved protection of and access to basic human rights, for the asylum-seekers in BiH.
- The first Refugee Law Clinic was launched in Sarajevo, with the participation of some 20 students from the Law Faculties of Sarajevo, East Sarajevo/Pale and Bijeljina. The Refugee Law Clinic shall enable students to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical experience in the field of refugee law, on the international legal framework for refugee protection and relevant acquis of the European Union.

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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