

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

2,665 persons arrived irregularly in August, which is 29 per cent less compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are the Syrian Arab Republic (39%), Afghanistan (22%) and Morocco (12%).¹

85% of them were issued an “Attestation on Intention to Seek Asylum” (AISA).¹

1,783 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 **19** persons and conducted **7** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

10 decisions were issued, seven granting subsidiary protection and three negative. Four applications were suspended / terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END AUGUST)

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

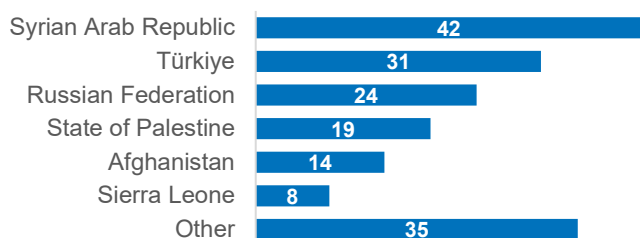
173 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

231 persons under international protection (**45** with refugee status and **186** under subsidiary protection)

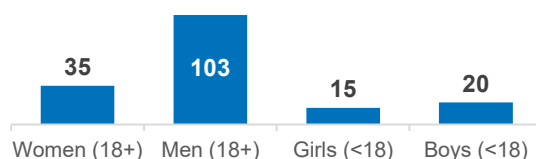
17 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AS OF END AUGUST)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



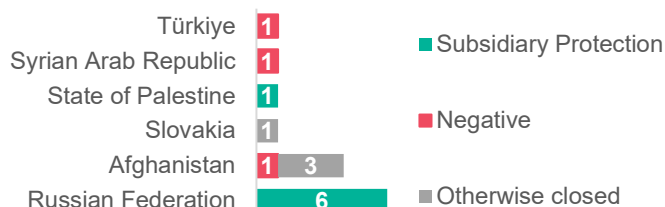
AGE AND GENDER



Of **35** children, **5** are unaccompanied or separated

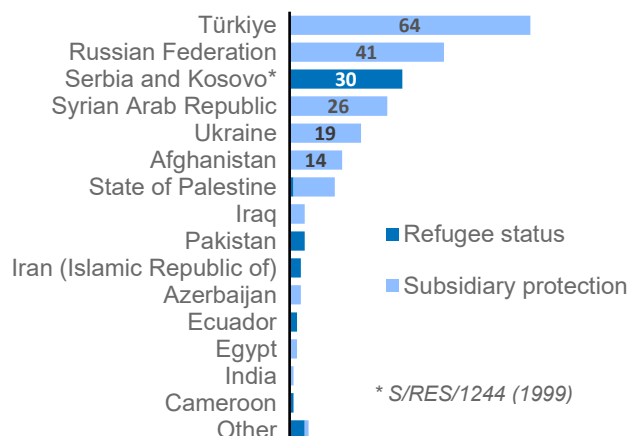
DECISIONS² IN AUGUST

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AS OF END AUGUST)

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.

BIH CLOSE TO RESOLVING ALL KNOWN CASES OF STATELESSNESS

As part of the Human Rights Day programme of the 30th edition of the Sarajevo Film Festival, UNHCR organized a panel discussion on statelessness, with the participation of the civil society organization Vaša prava BiH, the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a former stateless person. This event was held in the context of the UNHCR's decade-long global #IBelong campaign to end statelessness, launched in 2014. Some 20 European Youth Ambassadors from the Western Balkans attended the event, watched short films related to statelessness, and discussed this phenomenon and how it is portrayed in film and media.

BiH has already made significant efforts to address the issue of statelessness with 869 formerly stateless people who acquired a nationality or had it confirmed since the start of the #IBelong campaign. In addition, in 2024 the country pledged to resolve the remaining pending cases by the end of the campaign this year. In BiH, UNHCR supports provision of free legal aid to stateless persons through Vaša prava BiH, and advocates for the facilitation of birth and citizenship registration. UNHCR uses a proactive approach with the authorities at all levels, to identify and effectively respond to cases of stateless persons.

One pending case was resolved this month with the support of Vaša prava BiH. As of end of August 2024, UNHCR is aware of only 17 persons who are stateless or at risk of statelessness. Thus, with political will and if all relevant actors join forces in a final effort to resolve these cases, BiH could be among the first countries in Europe to resolve all known cases of statelessness.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 249 PERSONS (AT THE END OF AUGUST)

18 persons under subsidiary protection

4 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

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

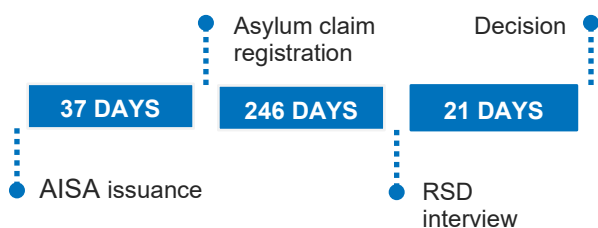
ASYLUM OVERVIEW (2022 – 2024)

	2022	2023	2024
Applications	149	147	146
Refugee status ²	0	4	2
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	54
Rejected applications ²	26	9	12
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	22

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 304 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

87 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 50 days.

259 DAYS

Over 50% of asylum-seekers pending RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (259 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 AUGUST

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **266** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **76** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **105** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **68** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- **1** case person at risk of statelessness resolved
- UNHCR's partners Vaša prava BiH and the Catholic Relief Services facilitated the translation and nostrification of diplomas for four people from the Russian Federation under international protection in BiH. This procedure is important for potential employment of skilled workers, as it contributes to increase refugees' chances on the job market, as well as to allow them to continue their education in BiH, if they wish to. Ultimately, this also contributes to alleviating the integration process of people under international protection into the BiH society.



Panel on statelessness at the Human Rights Day of the Sarajevo Film Festival @UNHCR



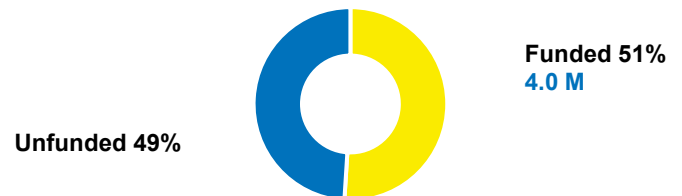
Nigerian asylum-seeker in front of the hotel in Bihać where he started working, with integration support from @UNHCR/VP BiH

NEWS & EVENTS

- On 15 August in Banja Luka, UNHCR, together with the OSCE mission in BiH and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA), held a presentation for over 350 students and cadets in the educational institutions of the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior. Future law enforcement professionals were introduced to the mandate of UNHCR, basics of international refugee law, the national legislation and access to asylum in BiH, rights and obligations of persons under international protection, the role and procedures of asylum in SFA offices and their cooperation with the police, as well as trafficking and smuggling of people in mixed movements.

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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