

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

2,812 persons arrived irregularly in September, which is six per cent more compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are the Syrian Arab Republic (27%), Afghanistan (22%) and Morocco (13%).¹

87% of them were issued an “attestation of the expressed intent to apply for asylum” (AISA).¹

1,718 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 **26** persons and conducted **8** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

6 decisions were issued, all granting subsidiary protection. One application was suspended / terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END SEPTEMBER)

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

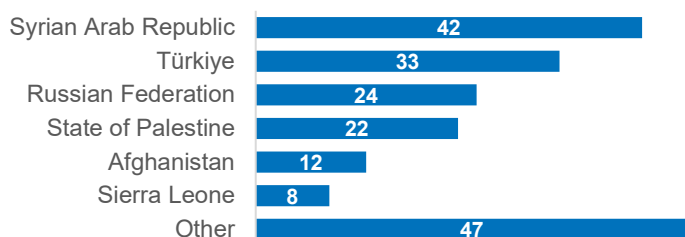
188 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

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

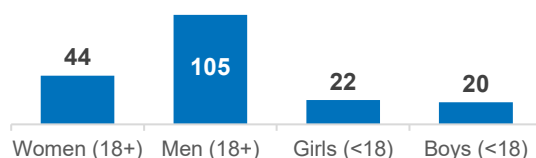
16 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AS OF END SEPTEMBER)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



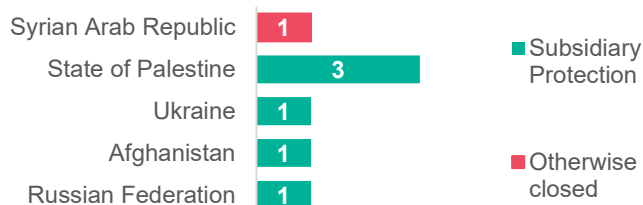
AGE AND GENDER



Of **42** children, **6** are unaccompanied or separated

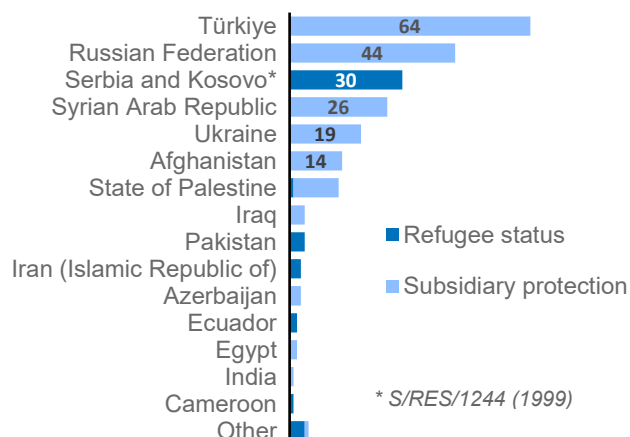
DECISIONS² IN SEPTEMBER

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AS OF END SEPTEMBER)

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.

OVERRELIANCE ON THE ATTESTATION OF THE EXPRESSED INTENT TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM

The majority of individuals arriving irregularly in BiH as part of mixed movements are registered and issued with an attestation of the expressed intent to apply for asylum (AISA) upon arrival by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs. Based on the BiH Law on Asylum, the attestation has a validity of eight days, extendable up to fourteen days, and represents the first step of the asylum procedure. However, only a small percentage of AISA recipients have a genuine interest to seek asylum in BiH and manage to formally register their asylum application. By over-relying on the issuance of such attestations for registration purposes, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs does not differentiate individuals who intend to move onwards from those genuinely interested in seeking asylum in BiH. UNHCR and partners have been working to remedy this through profiling and referral activities. Still, a systematic and sustainable early identification system remains much-needed.

The issuance of AISA should be limited to those who genuinely wish to seek asylum in BiH, so that they can enter the procedure without delay and on priority basis. In parallel, alternative and complementary mechanisms to register irregular arrivals to the country should be developed, notably to allow access to services provided in the Temporary Reception Centers. In this regard, UNHCR is advocating and working with the competent authorities for the introduction of a differentiated approach to identify and prioritize those genuinely interested in seeking asylum in the country.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 253 PERSONS (AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER)

18 persons under subsidiary protection

4 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

231 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	172
Refugee status ²	0	4	2
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	60
Rejected applications ²	26	9	12
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	23

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 318 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

84 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 was averaging 53 days.

278 DAYS

Over 45% of asylum-seekers pending an RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (278 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 SEPTEMBER

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **203** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **65** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **138** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **130** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- **1** case of person at risk of statelessness resolved
- With the start of the school year, UNHCR and its partners stepped-up activities to facilitate access to education for forcibly displaced children. BHWI re-established communication with educational institutions and school support services, while also providing pedagogical mentoring to 23 children from Azerbaijan, Ecuador, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and the Russian Federation. All are attending the regular education system in BiH, including 19 in primary education and four in secondary education. BHWI also distributed school supplies to all students.



Football practice as part of social inclusion activities in Međugorje @UNHCR



Single-father from Ecuador with refugee status, receiving firewood as part of winterization response @UNHCR/CRS

NEWS & EVENTS

- UNHCR, together with its partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI) and the BiH Football Association, as part of joint activities supported by the UEFA, organized on 20-21 September social integration activities through football in Međugorje ([Facebook post](#)). On the first day, participants, coaches and teachers, were introduced to the *Football3* methodology, while the second day was dedicated to practical exercises and football games, attended by more than 80 children from local communities, Palestinian refugee children residing in the Salakovac Refugee Reception Center and Ukrainian refugee children. The event promoted mutual respect, tolerance and inclusion through sports, transforming the football field into a space of understanding and friendship for young people from different social groups.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.0 million**

Unfunded 37%
3.0 M



Funded 63%
5.0 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](#)