Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

1,212 people have been reported to arrive irregularly in June, which is 30% more compared to the preceding month (930).[1]

Top three declared countries of origin are Afghanistan (22%), Morocco (13%) and Bangladesh (12%).[1]

72% were issued an "attestation of the expressed intent to apply for asylum" (AISA).[1]

The Sector for Asylum of the Ministry of Security (MoS) registered the asylum claims of **12** people and conducted **4** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

3 positive decisions were issued, granting subsidiary protection, and **3** negative decisions were issued. 5 applications were suspended / terminated.[2]

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (END OF JUNE)

30 people represented by UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH waiting for the registration of their asylum claim

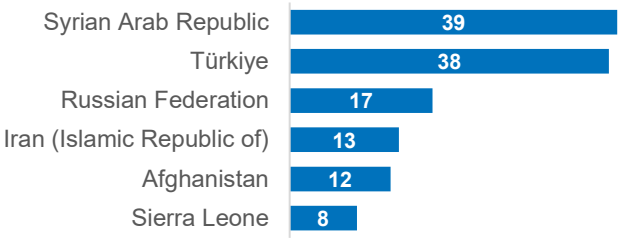
200 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

268 people under international protection (**47** with refugee status and **221** under subsidiary protection)

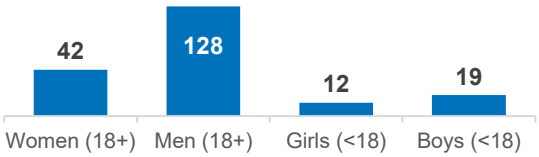
9 stateless people and people at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (END OF JUNE)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



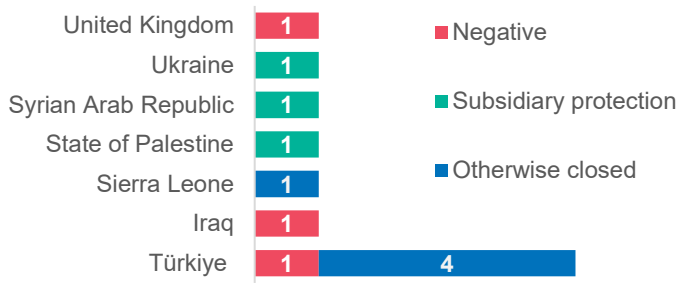
AGE AND GENDER



Of **31** children, **11** were unaccompanied or separated at the time of registration

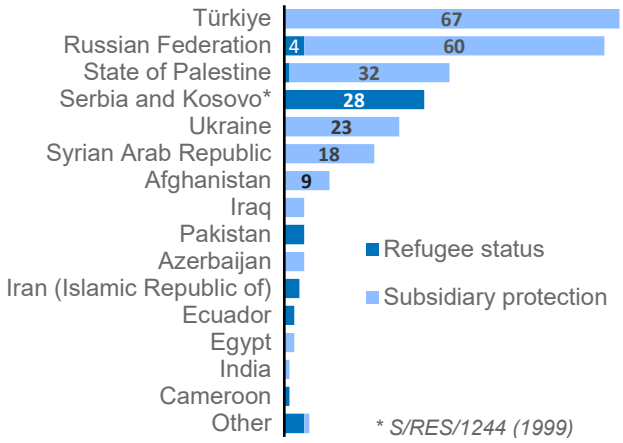
DECISIONS[2] IN JUNE

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PEOPLE UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (END OF JUNE)[2]

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 people covered by decisions.

MID-YEAR ASYLUM STATE-OF-PLAY

In the first half of 2025, BiH authorities recorded a significant decline in irregular arrivals (5,178) compared with the same period in 2024 (12,334). However, many among them are vulnerable and/or in need of international protection. Notably, the majority originated from Afghanistan, one of the top three refugee-producing countries globally. Of those arriving irregularly, 72% were issued an attestation on intention to seek asylum (AISA) by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, while only a minority (1%) formally registered an asylum application. Currently, there is no triage done between people who intend to move onwards from those genuinely interested in seeking asylum in BiH, and a systematic early identification system and differentiated status is needed.

The pace of asylum processing has slowed down in 2025. There are particularly significant delays with Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews. At the end of June, 70% of asylum-seekers (96 cases) pending RSD interview had been waiting for more than six months, with an average wait time of 346 days. Long waiting times contribute to a growing backlog, delay access to rights for those in need of international protection and may motivate onward movement. However, UNHCR welcomes the fact that recently, the authorities have been scheduling registrations and RSD interviews at a higher pace.

Despite these challenges, the protection rate remains high at 80%, allowing the majority of asylum-seekers to receive some form of international protection. Nonetheless, UNHCR considers that many who meet the criteria for refugee status were instead granted subsidiary protection status, denying them access to a durable solution, namely naturalization, family reunification and travel documents. To date in 2025, only four individuals have been granted refugee status.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 AND ARE CURRENTLY IN BIH: 296

22 people under subsidiary protection

4 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

270 people applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which permits stay up to six months but without rights (besides residency)

ASYLUM OVERVIEW (2023 – 2025)

	2023	2024	2025
Applications	147	235	71
Refugee status[2]	4	2	4
Subsidiary protection status[2]	63	93	28
Rejected applications[2]	9	16	8
Procedure terminated[2]	41	33	39

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

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 258 DAYS

Average time from AISA issuance to first-instance decision, for decisions issued during the last six months (22 cases).

** For the waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, detention cases are excluded, as UNHCR does not receive data to calculate it. However, they are included in the next two steps.*

ASYLUM PROCESSING BACKLOG

109 DAYS

Average waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, excluding detention cases. This waiting time covers claims registered in the last six month (Jan. – June 2025). It has increased by 73% compared with the previous six-month period, when it was averaging 63 days (July – Dec. 2024).

346 DAYS

70% of asylum-seekers (96 cases) pending RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (346 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 JUNE

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **100** people provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **33** people assisted with free legal aid on asylum
- **137** people assisted with psychosocial support
- **7** sessions in social, recreational and occupational therapy activities
- UNHCR's partner the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provides vocational training to refugees in BiH – equipping them with practical skills needed to find employment, become self-reliant, and integrate into their host communities. In June, Matin, a refugee from Afghanistan, got his driver's license, a step that will lead to a promotion at his job in a Sarajevo textile warehouse. His journey reflects the resilience and determination of those who had to rebuild a new life somewhere else.

Matin, a refugee from Afghanistan, successfully passed his driving test @CRS

Performance of the play "I Want to Live" at BiH's Parliamentary Assembly on World Refugee Day @MHRR

NEWS & EVENTS

- On 20 June, UNHCR and its partners marked World Refugee Day throughout the country. In a joint Op-Ed, Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator, and Lucie Gagné, UNHCR Representative, recalled that just as the citizens of BiH were forced to leave their homeland 30 years ago, and found protection across the globe – today, people from other parts of the world are coming to BiH, to find safety and conditions for a more dignified life. Together with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, an event was organized in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in Sarajevo. A performance of the play "I Want to Live" was staged, with support from UNHCR's partner the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative. In Bihać, UNHCR and Vaša prava BiH (VP BiH), along with LAN, IPSIA, and JRS, organized a joint visit for asylum-seekers and refugees to the City Museum and other activities aimed at fostering social inclusion and understanding. In Tuzla, VP BiH participated as a guest lecturer at an event on migration and asylum organized at the 30th Summer University.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 7.3 million**

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2025 global programmes.

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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 2025 programme.

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