

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**1,269** migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in March, representing a 64% increase over the previous month and the highest number since October 2020. Of these arrivals, 24 were reported to be unaccompanied children (UASC). The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 2,712, while 72,125 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

**1,172** persons (92%) arriving in March expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

**8** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in March, all of them in UNHCR's Information Center.

**1** decision\* was issued in March, which was a negative first-instance decision. 5 asylum claims were suspended during the period.

**10** asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in March out of 47 scheduled. All registrations were conducted in UNHCR's Information Center in Sarajevo.

**472 days**, length of the asylum procedure for first-instance decision\* issued in March.

**223 days**, average amount of time persons waited to register\*\* an asylum claim for those claims registered in March.

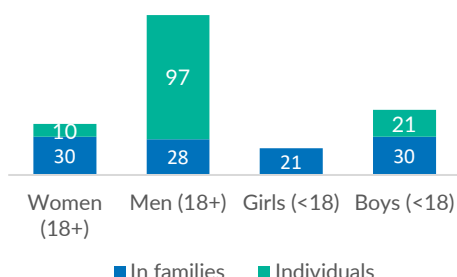
**4,734** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of March, while 1,500-2,500 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

## KEY INDICATORS FOR MARCH 2021

- 237** asylum claims were pending at the end of March, of which 46% (109 persons) belonged to persons in families
- 299** persons were awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH at the end of March 2021
- 60** refugees were in the country at the end of March, **5** from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 53** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH at the end of March
- 67** persons at risk of statelessness who are being assisted by UNHCR and partners at the end of March

## PENDING ASYLUM CLAIMS AT THE END OF MARCH - TOTAL: 237

AGE AND GENDER

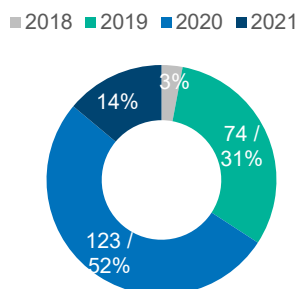


**21** Unaccompanied or separated children

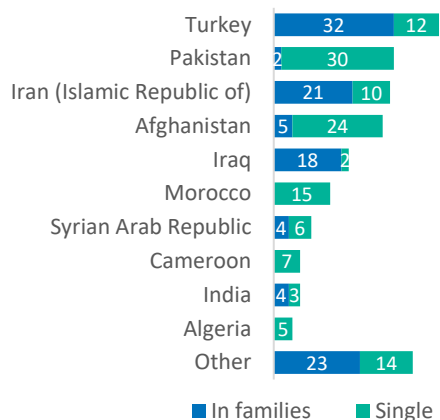
**10** Single women

**51** Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

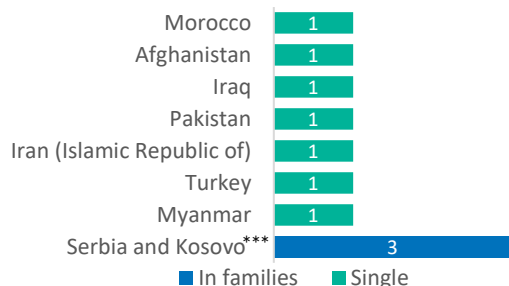


TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN MARCH 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

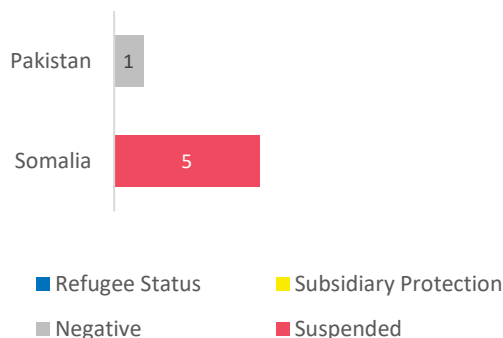


**1** Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)

**1** Single woman

**3** Children in family

DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

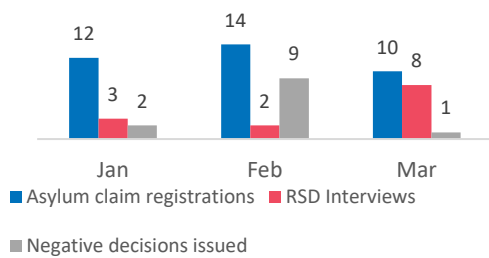


\*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

\*\*\*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

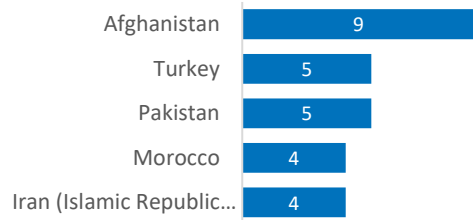
## INDICATORS for 2021

### REGISTRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2021



36 asylum-claim registrations  
13 RSD Interviews  
0 granted refugee status  
0 granted subsidiary protection  
12 negative decisions issued

### REGISTRATIONS IN 2021: Top 5 Country of Origin

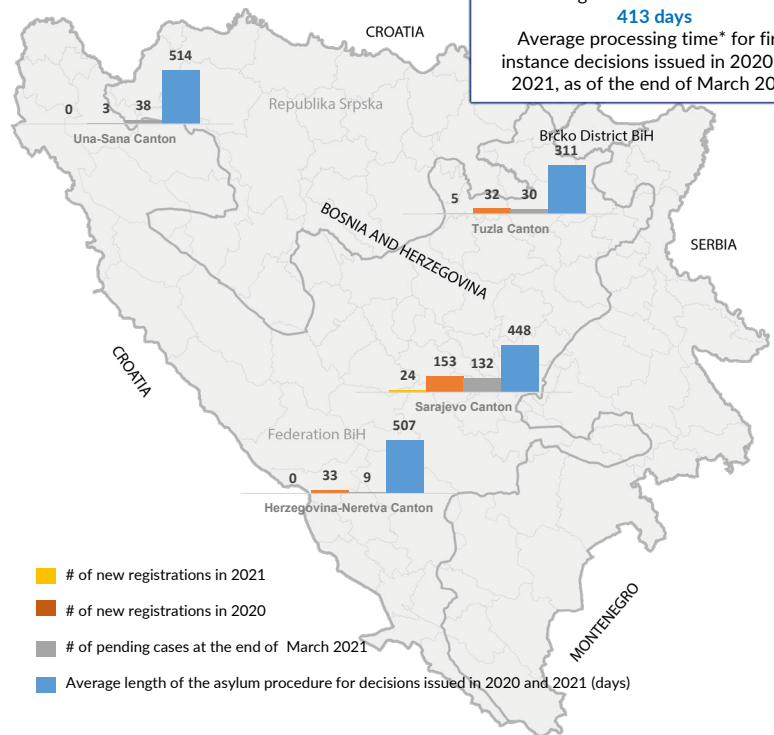


## WAITING TIMES AND ASYLUM PROCESSING\*\* \*\*

PERSONS AWAITING REGISTRATION OF THEIR ASYLUM CLAIM WITH MoS AT THE END OF MARCH

Location	#	Date of last registration with MoS
Private/NGO accomm. in Tuzla Canton	69	March 2021
TRC Ušivak	49	March 2021
TRC Sedra	39	November 2020
TRC Blažuj	33	No registrations
RRC Salakovac	24	June 2020
MFS Emmaus	22	No registrations
TRC Borići	18	October 2019
Private accommodation in Sarajevo canton	16	March 2021
TRC Miral	16	No registrations
AC Delijaš	6	September 2020
Private/NGO accomm. in Una-Sana canton	6	October 2019
PC Lipa	1	No registrations

### 2020-2021 ASYLUM PROCESS INDICATORS MAP



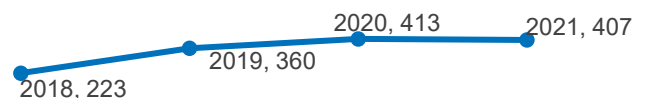
157 days  
Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2020 and 2021

413 days  
Average processing time\* for first instance decisions issued in 2020 and 2021, as of the end of March 2021

### ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	36
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	0
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	0
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	12
Suspensions*	741	1,059	546	51

### AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018-2021



\*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

\*Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level (not individual). The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions. Data presented reflect asylum-seeker address at the time of asylum claim registration. \*\*Waiting time for registrations is calculated as the number of days between AISA issuance and the date when asylum claim was registered, at case level, excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.



UNHCR completed another training for SFA Field Office in Tuzla. Co-funded by the EU, this training aims to improve the SFA work on collecting more reliable information on people arriving irregularly to BiH and to conduct early identification of persons with international protection needs. PHOTO:UNHCR/Vanes Pilav [more](#)



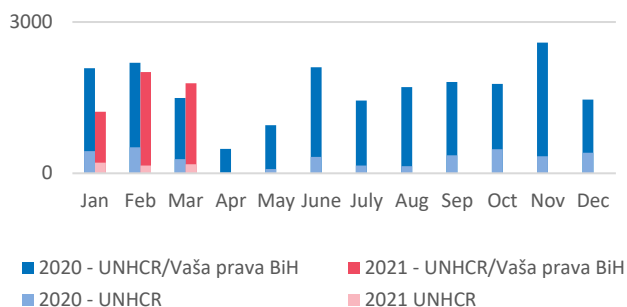
Having clear and effective information on the steps of the asylum procedure is paramount to people seeking international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With EU support, UNHCR developed a set of comprehensive tools (posters, brochures, videos) to enhance its communication with asylum seekers residing in reception centres across the country. PHOTO:UNHCR [more](#)

## ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN FEBRUARY

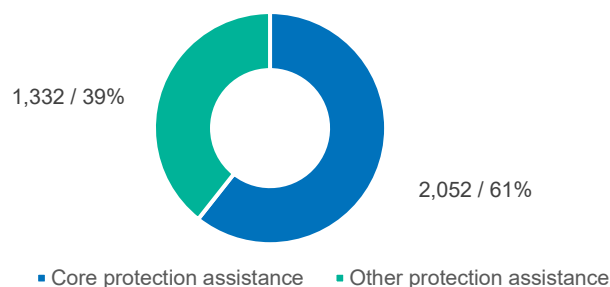
- 1,788 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA III projects)
- 500 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, health related assistance, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.
- 937 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASCs, SGBV activities) with the support from USA.
- Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants provided information on access to asylum in BiH to 2,152 persons while their activities are funded by the.

## ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR 2020-2021

### PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



### PROTECTION ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN 2021 - UNHCR/BHWI



In March, the BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, in coordination with UNHCR, established a Local Integration Coordination Working Group to coordinate work of civil society organizations and other actors working on the local integration of persons with international protection in BiH. [Find out more on unhcr.org/see](https://www.unhcr.org/see)



Part of the EU-funded activities targeting better access to the asylum system in BiH, especially during COVID19 pandemic, is establishing a compact network of peer-to-peer educators recruited among recognized refugees in BiH and asylum-seekers entitled to access the labor market. UNHCR/Dorijan Klasnić [Find out more on unhcr.org/see](https://www.unhcr.org/see)

## OTHER NEWS IN MARCH

- Vocational art therapies and recreational group activities are part of the psychosocial programmes for vulnerable asylum-seeking women provided by UNHCR through a partnership with its partner BHWI and with support of the EU Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. [Read the story.](#)
- Nowruz, the Persian New Year - UNHCR, in partnership with BHWI, helps the authorities creating an environment in which displaced people can enjoy their traditions and mark significant occasions despite COVID-19 challenges. [Read more.](#)
- In challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency partner Vaša Prava BiH continues to provide legal support to people in need of international protection. [Read more.](#)
- UNHCR's partner BHWI in the TRC Ušivak participated in IOM CCCM led organization of an open-air art exhibition prepared by the center's beneficiaries through psychosocial support activities. [Read more.](#)
- UNHCR assisted a journalist from Turkish NTV to produce a reportage from BiH regarding mixed movement issues. [See video.](#)

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