

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**1,731** migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in August, representing an 23% decrease over July 2021. There were no unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) amongst arrivals. The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 11,742, representing a 1% increase over the first eight months of 2020, while 81,155 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

**1,617** persons (93%) arriving in August expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

**6** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in August, all of them in UNHCR's Information Centre.

**12** first-instance decisions\* were issued in August. A family of 2 and one single male were granted subsidiary protection, while 9 claims were rejected. 7 asylum claims were suspended during the period.

**5** asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in August, all were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo

**541 days** - the length of the asylum procedure for the first-instance decisions\*\* issued in August.

**51 days** - the average amount of time persons waited to register\*\*\* an asylum claim for those claims registered in August.

**2,837** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of August, while 1,000-1,600 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

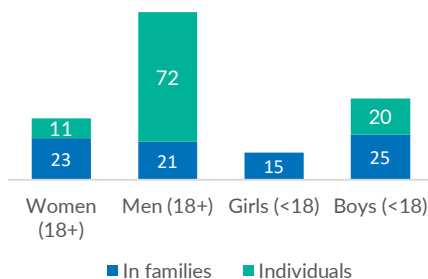
**8%** of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre were conducted.

## KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF AUGUST 2021

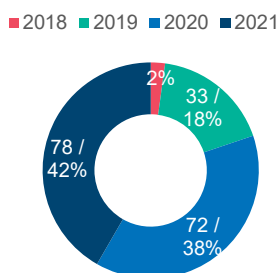
- 187** asylum claims pending, of which 45% (84 people) involved persons in families
- 71** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 56** refugees in the country, of which, **5** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 53** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 69** persons at risk of statelessness and **3** stateless persons being assisted by UNHCR and partners
- 80** former refugees from Croatia identified as persons at risk of statelessness

## PENDING ASYLUM CLAIMS AT THE END OF AUGUST – TOTAL: 187

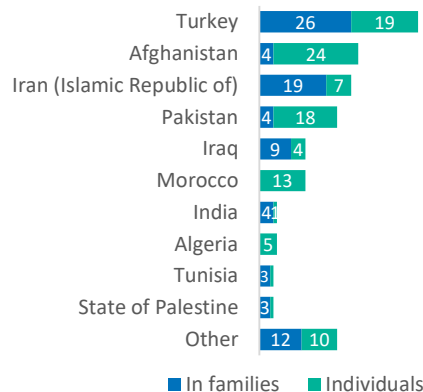
AGE AND GENDER



PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION



TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



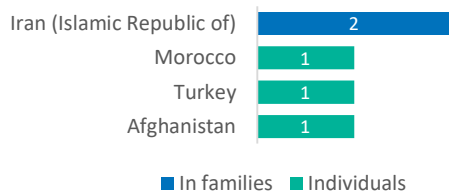
**20** Unaccompanied or separated children

**11** Single adult females

**40** Children in families

## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN AUGUST 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

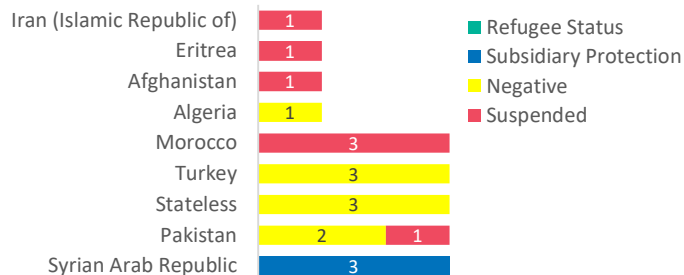


**1** Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)

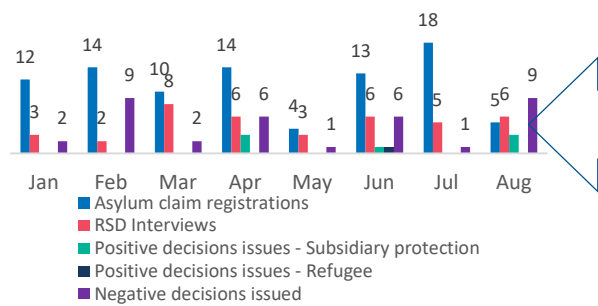
**1** Single adult female

**1** Child in families

DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

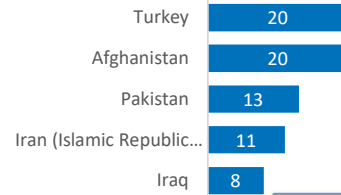


\* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

**INDICATORS FOR 2021**
**REGISTRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2021**


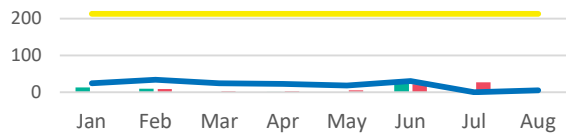
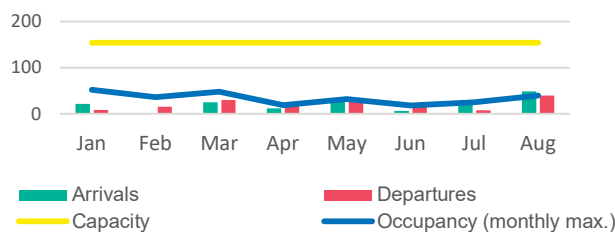
**2021 Totals**

- 90 asylum-claim registrations
- 39 RSD Interviews
- 1 granted refugee status
- 7 granted subsidiary protection
- 36 negative decisions issued

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


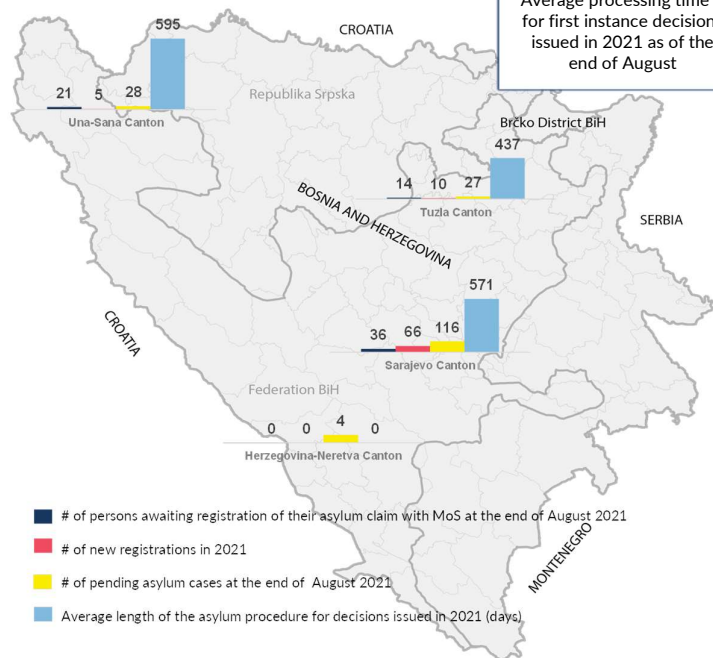
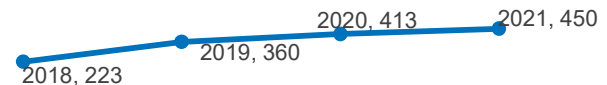
**174 days**  
 Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2021

**450 days**  
 Average processing time\*\* for first instance decisions issued in 2021 as of the end of August

**OCCUPANCY - RRC SALAKOVAC IN 2021**

**OCCUPANCY - AC DELIJAŠ IN 2021**

**STATE RECEPTION CAPACITY**

While the authorities can accommodate up to 367 individuals in its two government-run centres, at the end of August, Asylum Centre (AC) Delijaš was empty while Refugee Reception Centre (RRC) Salakovac had only 5 residents. These numbers stand in stark contrast to the IOM-run Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs), which accommodated nearly 3,000 persons at the end of August. The above graphs demonstrate that for the entirety of 2021, both centres remained chronically underutilized and characterized by extremely high turnover despite the fact that the harsh winter weather and closure of two temporary reception centres at the end of 2020 resulted in a strain on reception capacity throughout the country.

The main reason behind this underutilization is the strict criteria for admittance enforced by the state authorities, and currently, only families from TRC Ušivak can be transferred to either centre. Additionally, only persons with valid SFA-issued attestations will be accommodated in either centre, meaning families are only eligible if identified and referred from TRC Ušivak within 14-days of arrival in the territory of BiH. Furthermore, while both centres are designated for refugees and asylum-seekers, transfers are conducted without consideration for the intentions of the individuals, with most preferring onward movement rather than asylum in BiH, which accounts for the high degree of turnover, while asylum-seekers and those awaiting registration with the authorities are not accommodated in either centre due to the expiration of their attestations. UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities for the full utilization of both centres with a priority for asylum-seekers.

**2021 ASYLUM PROCESS INDICATORS MAP**

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


\*\*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.

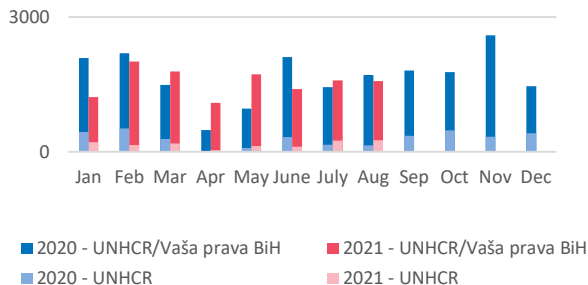
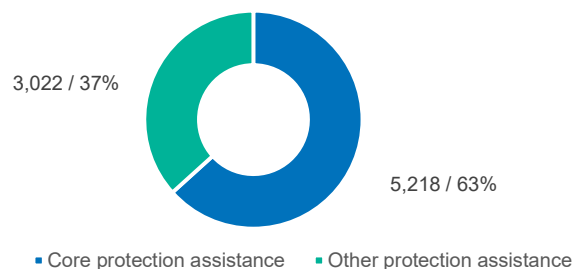
**ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021**

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	90
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	1
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	7
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	36
Suspensions*	741	1,059	546	131

\* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN AUGUST**

- 1,577 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA SM III projects) and AMIF.
- 292 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from the European Union (IcSP I and IcSP II projects) and AMIF.
- 407 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities) with the support from the European Union (IcSP I and IcSP II projects) and AMIF.
- Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants have provided information on access to asylum in BiH to 2,522 persons.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR 2020-2021**
**PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID**

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


On 12 August, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer, Hugues Bissot, gave a speech during the ceremony to hand over the keys to the 32 beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) in Prijedor.



On 11 August, UNHCR organized a training session for cultural mediators working for Vaša Prava BiH, BHWI, Save the Children and Centar za pružanje usluga u zajednici Tuzla in a facility run by the NGO Puž in Tuzla Canton.

**OTHER NEWS IN AUGUST**

- On 11 August, UNHCR organized a training session for cultural mediators working for Vaša Prava BiH, BHWI, Save the Children and Centar za pružanje usluga u zajednici Tuzla - Puž in Tuzla Canton aiming to refresh them on the importance of their role in improving understanding, creating relationships, and ultimately bridging the gap between refugees/migrants and service providers. [More](#).
- On 12 August, a group of 32 families who received the keys of new apartments in the building constructed under the Regional Housing Programme in Prijedor. After 29 years of displacement, an 86-year-old Koviljka Ljepoja can finally enjoy a view from her own balcony. [More](#).
- On 20 August, UNHCR partner BHWI, in cooperation with organizations operating within the temporary reception centre Blažuj, organised a volleyball tournament on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Day. [More](#).

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