

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

1,552 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in September, representing a 10% decrease over August 2021. As with the previous two months, there were no UASC amongst irregular arrivals in September. The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 13,294, representing a 1% decrease over the first nine months of 2020, while 82,707 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

1,424 persons (92%) arriving in September expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

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

12 first-instance decisions\* were issued in September: 9 granting subsidiary protection (involving 2 families, 1 individual, and 1 individual who received derivative status or 4 cases overall) and 3 rejections. 15 asylum claims were suspended during the period.

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

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

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

2,727 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of September, while 1,000-1,100 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

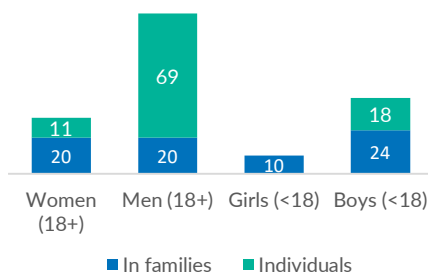
2 recognized refugees naturalized in September.

## KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF SEPTEMBER 2021

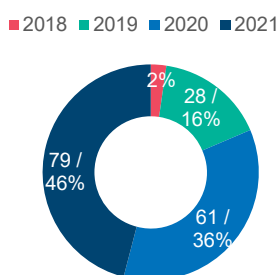
- 172 asylum claims pending, of which 43% (74 people) involved persons in families
- 108 people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 53 refugees in the country, of which 5 are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 62 persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 66 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 SEPTEMBER – TOTAL: 172

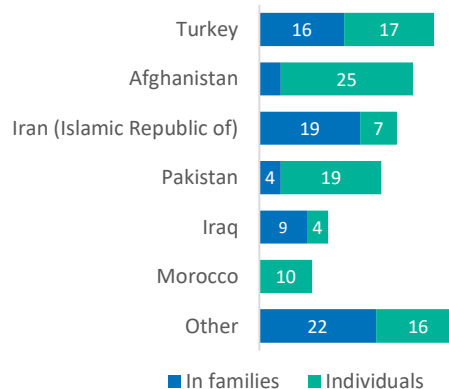
AGE AND GENDER



PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION



TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



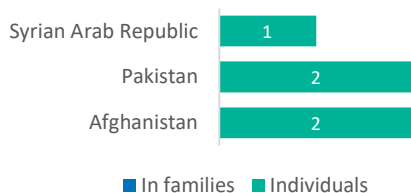
18 Unaccompanied or separated children

11 Single adult females

34 Children in families

## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN SEPTEMBER 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

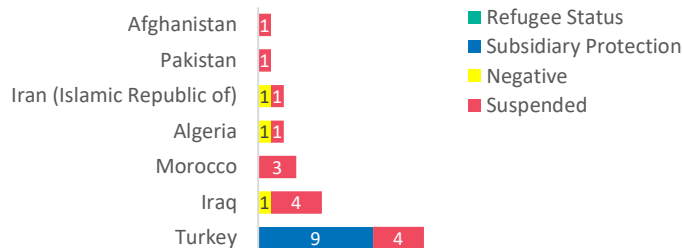


0 Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)

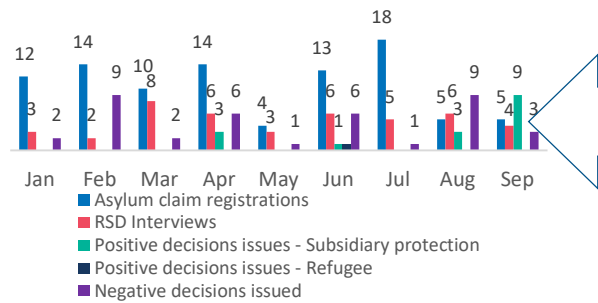
0 Single adult female

0 Child in families

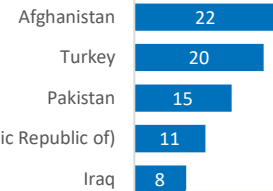
DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



\* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

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


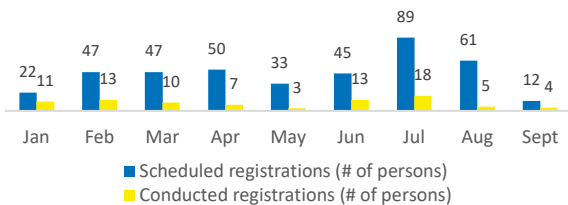
**2021 Totals**  
 95 asylum-claim registrations  
 43 RSD Interviews  
 1 granted refugee status  
 16 granted subsidiary protection  
 39 negative decisions issued

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


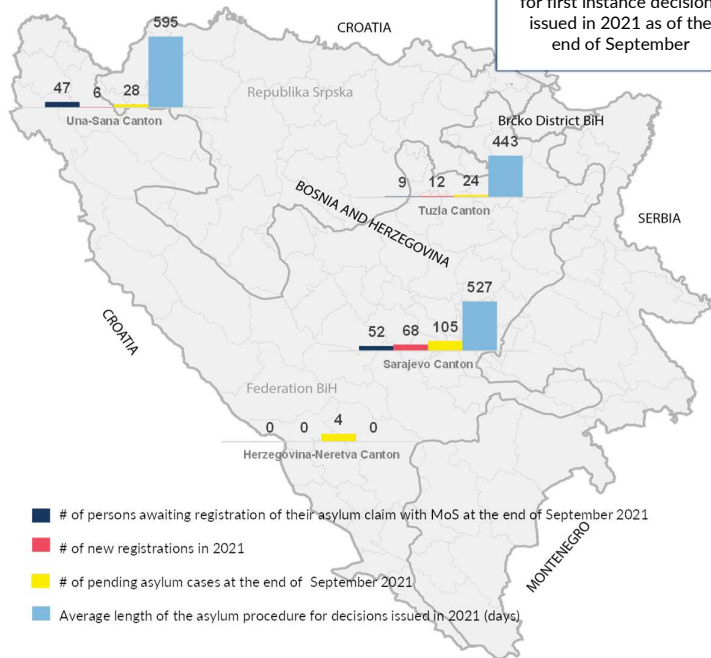
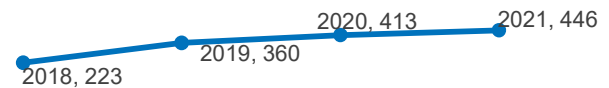
**183 days**  
 Average waiting time to register an asylum claim\*\*\* for those claims which were registered in 2021  
**446 days**  
 Average processing time\*\* for first instance decisions issued in 2021 as of the end of September

**ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE**

Access to the asylum procedure remains the main challenge for individuals seeking international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Individuals must be invited to register a claim by the Sector for Asylum, and in practice must travel to Sarajevo to lodge the application. Even though more than 100 people are currently awaiting registration, only seven registrations (involving 12 persons) were scheduled during the month of September, of which just four were conducted. Compared to August, this represents an 80% decrease in the number of registrations scheduled.

**REGISTRATIONS IN UNHCR INFO CENTRE IN 2021**


Only five persons were registered in September as well as August and together with May, when just four persons were registered, these represent the lowest monthly registration tallies in 2021. For the first nine months of the year, an average of just ten people were registered per month, despite the fact that the number awaiting registration has consistently exceeded 100, resulting in long waiting times for registration. For those asylum claims registered in September, the average time spent waiting (calculated as the number of days between issuance of an attestation on expressed interest to seek asylum and the date the asylum claim was formally registered) was nearly one year (328 days). Average waiting times vary by registered address, with those in Una-Sana Canton waiting excessive amounts of time to register their claim. Of the four claims registered in September, the waiting time was 97 days for the individual from Sarajevo Canton, an average of 236 days for the claims registered from Tuzla Canton and 745 days for the registration conducted for someone from Una-Sana Canton (USC). Overall, in 2021, three asylum claims were registered from USC, with an averaging waiting time of 652 days. The accommodation type in USC plays an additional role, with only individuals in private or NGO accommodation and the family centre Borići being invited, while residents of the adult male centres (Lipa and Miral) remain without access.

**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.

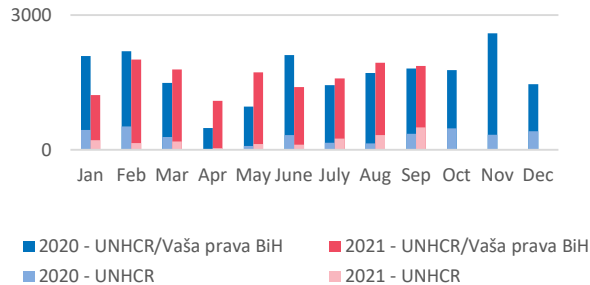
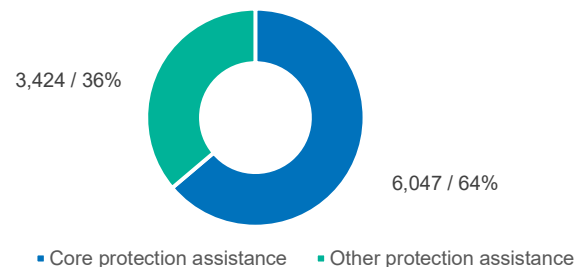
**ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021**

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	95
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	1
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	16
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	39
Suspensions*	741	1,059	546	146

\* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN SEPTEMBER**

- 1,862 legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA SM III projects) and AMIF.
- 241 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.
- 565 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 3,060 persons.

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

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


UNHCR partner Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative distributing IT equipment to improve access to educational materials and online tools for non-formal education to refugees and asylum-seekers.



On 8 September, UNHCR and its partner Vaša Prava BiH organized a training for judges on the extrajudicial procedure to determine the time and place of birth to shed light on common issues that arise in practice.

**OTHER NEWS IN SEPTEMBER**

- On 20 September, a round table related to the draft amendments to the Bylaw on asylum organized by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and Sector for Asylum of the Ministry of Security took place in Jahorina. [More.](#)
- In October, the implementation of the community project started providing the pupils of the elementary school "Harmani II" Bihać with a new sports ground where they will be able to participate in sports classes and where children from the local community and refugee and migrant children will be able to spend their free time and enjoy interacting with their peers". [More.](#)
- On 8 September, a training for judges was organized by UNHCR and its partner Vaša Prava BiH on the extrajudicial procedure to determine the time and place of births. This training is another step towards eradicating statelessness in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [More.](#)
- During the first half of September, UNHCR through its partner Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative distributed IT equipment and school supplies to pupils and youth who are refugees and asylum-seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [More.](#)

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