

Bosnia and Herzegovina

336 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in December, representing a 62% decrease over November 2021, and a 36% decrease compared to December 2020. As with the previous five months, there were no UASC amongst irregular arrivals in December. The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 15,740, which is slight decrease (3%) over 2020 figures (16,150), while 85,153 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

263 persons (78%) arriving in December expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

7 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in December, six of them in UNHCR's Information Centre and one in prison.

12 first-instance decisions* were issued in December: **2** granting refugee status, **4** subsidiary protection and **6** negative decisions. **7** asylum applications were otherwise closed (6 suspensions and 1 dismissal).

17 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in December, of which 16 were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo and 1 in prison.

451 days - the length of the asylum procedure for the first-instance decisions** issued in December.

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

2,312 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of December, while 400 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

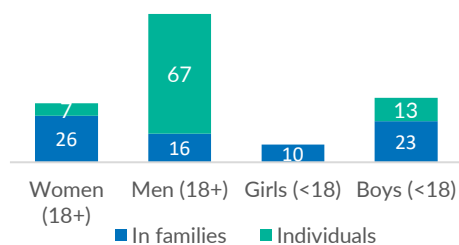
42% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre for December were conducted

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF DECEMBER 2021

- 162** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 46% (75 people) involved persons in families
- 57** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 55** refugees in the country, of which **9** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 73** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 116** stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness being assisted by UNHCR and partners

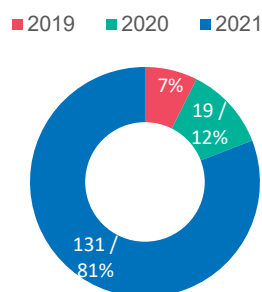
ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF DECEMBER – TOTAL: 162

AGE AND GENDER

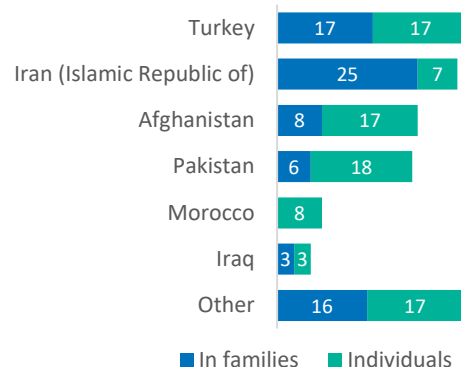


- 13** Unaccompanied or separated children
- 7** Single adult females
- 33** Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

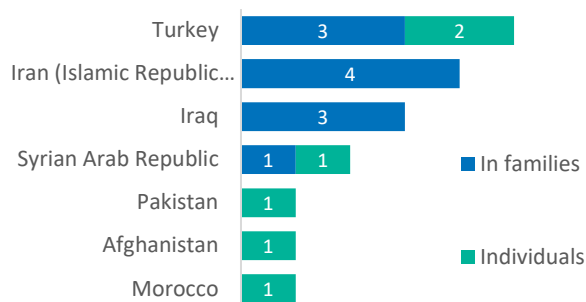


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



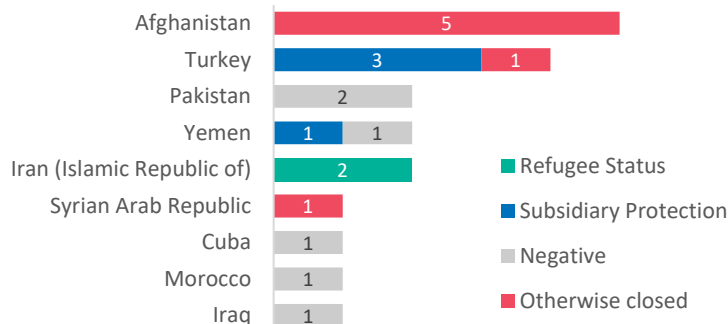
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN DECEMBER 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

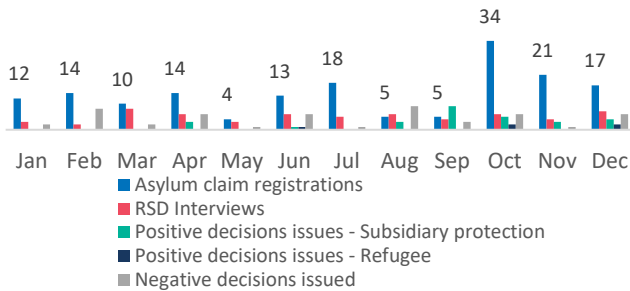


- 0** Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)
- 0** Single adult female
- 5** Children in families

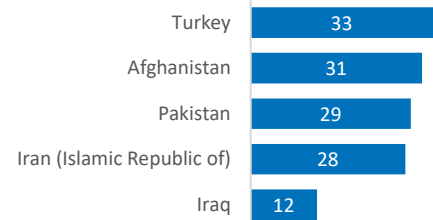
DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



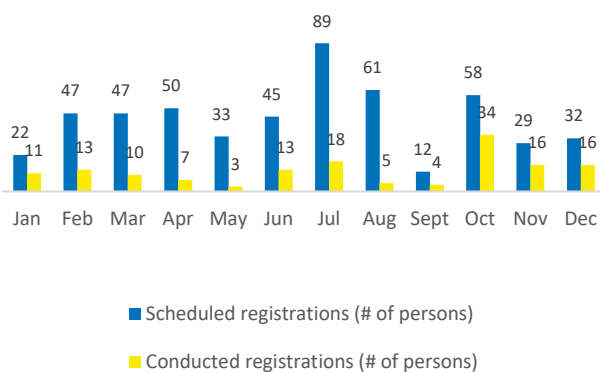
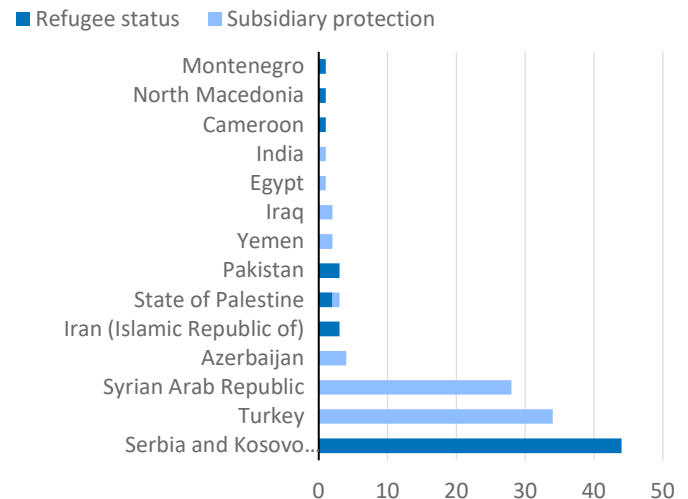
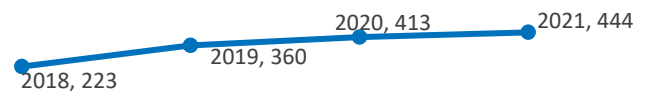
* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

INDICATORS FOR 2021
REGISTRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2021


167 asylum-claim registrations
60 RSD Interviews conducted
5 granted refugee status
28 granted subsidiary protection
51 rejected asylum claims

REGISTRATIONS IN 2021: Top 5 Country of Origin
Origin

ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE

In 2021, the Sector for Asylum registered the asylum claims of 167 individuals, a 32% decrease from the 245 claims registered in 2020 which was already a significant decrease compared to 2018 (1,572) and 2019 (785). Despite the marked reduction in claims registered and pending in the asylum procedure, the average processing time between registration and issuance of a first-instance decision continued to rise year on year, doubling from 223 days in 2018 to 444 days in 2021. In addition, the average time persons had to wait to register a claim in 2021 was 177 days, meaning that on average asylum seekers waited 621 days between expressing their intention to seek asylum and the issuance of a decision, which does not include additional time in case of appeal. The extreme processing times despite the low numbers of applications results in many asylum-seekers, including those with specific needs, abandoning the procedure prior to issuance of a decision. Of the 269 decisions issued in 2021, 185 or more than two-thirds were suspensions, meaning that 2 out of 3 cases were closed before a decision was issued.

REGISTRATIONS IN UNHCR INFO CENTRE IN 2021

PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018-2021


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

444 days
 Average processing time** for first instance decisions issued in 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.**

Positively, the number of asylum claim registrations conducted as a percentage of those scheduled increased significantly in the last three months of 2021, with 59% conducted in October, 61% in November and 42% in December. Compared to the first nine months of the year, when the average was just 19%, this suggests that the Sector for Asylum is better at identifying and scheduling registrations for those genuinely interested in the asylum procedure as opposed to those pursuing onward movement.

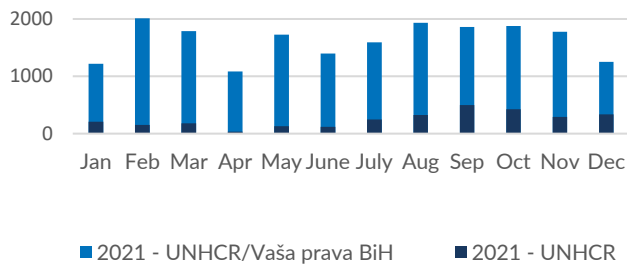
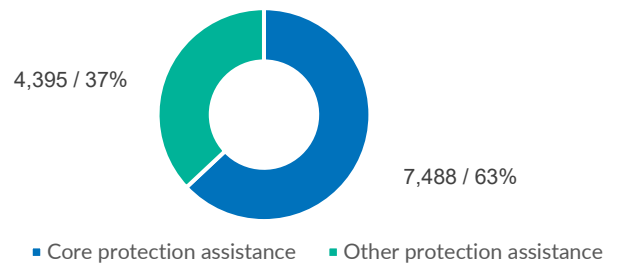
ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	245	167
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	5
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	28
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	51
Otherwise closed*	741	1,059	546	185

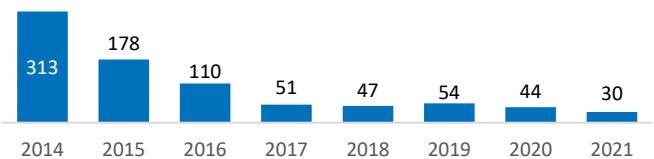
* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN DECEMBER

- 1,254 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.
- 264 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.
- 359 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.
- 328 protection and information on access to asylum in BiH assistances provided by UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants.

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

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

STATELESSNESS

Since the beginning of UNHCR's global #IBelong campaign in 2014, UNHCR and partners successfully resolved 827 cases of people at risk of statelessness (30 in 2021). Overall, since the beginning of a joint programme with Vaša Prava BiH aimed at the prevention and reduction of statelessness in BiH in 2008, 1,814 persons were assisted with obtaining documents.

PEOPLE AT RISK OF STATELESSNESS ASSISTED IN BIH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF #IBELONG CAMPAIGN IN 2014


On 2 December, the UNHCR Representative in BiH, Lucie Gagné, handed over IT equipment to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, including five PCs, five laptops, 26 multifunctional printers, and ten mobile phones to support identification, profiling and referrals of potential asylum-seekers.



On 20 December, more than 30 experts and representatives of institutions in BiH participated at a seminar on access to asylum, including the MoS, the BiH Court, and Judge Boštjan Zalar, President of the European Chapter of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges and Senior High Court Judge at the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia.

OTHER NEWS IN DECEMBER

- On 3 December, an interactive discussion focusing on knowledge exchange between the local LGBTIQ+ community and LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum-seekers, was organized by UNHCR and local experts. The aim of this event was to raise awareness and understanding of local community members on the challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum-seekers. [More.](#)
- On International Human Rights Day, UNHCR posted story on the activities conducted by UNHCR and its partner Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative during the 16 Days of Activism of activism against gender-based violence (GBV). [More.](#)
- With the financial support of the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, UNHCR and its partner Vaša Prava BiH organized a round table on providing free legal aid to stateless persons and people at risk of statelessness today. [More.](#)

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