

Bosnia and Herzegovina

3,953 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in September, representing an increase of 29% compared to the number of arrivals recorded during the previous month (3,076) and 155% increase compared to arrivals reported in September 2021 (1,552). 103,271 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

3,826 persons (97%) arriving in September expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Afghanistan (49%), Burundi (27%) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (5%).

7 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in September, **6** in UNHCR's Information Centre and **1** in an Immigration Centre.

5 decisions* were issued in September, all of them granting subsidiary protection. 10 asylum applications were otherwise closed (8 cases involving 10 persons – 1 UASC among them – suspended).

7 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in September (2 cases involving 7 persons), All of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

15 days was the average amount of time persons waited to register*** an asylum claim for those claims registered in September. This is the lowest value this year but the number of cases registered during September (2) is also the lowest number of cases registered in 2022.

3,176 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of September, while between 300-800 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

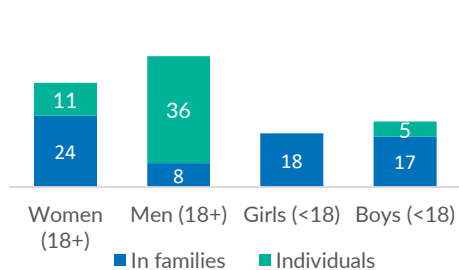
87% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Information Centre for September were conducted, the highest rate this year. At the same time, the number of scheduled registrations in September (8) was also the lowest in 2022 so far.

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF SEPTEMBER 2022

- 119** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 56% (67 people) involved persons in families
- 5** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 45** refugees in the country, of which 8 are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 93** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 39** identified stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness are being assisted by UNHCR

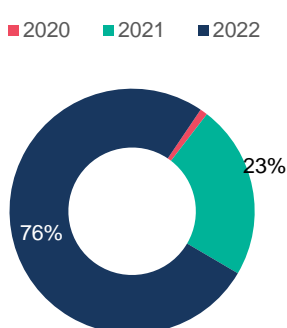
ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER – TOTAL: 119

AGE AND GENDER

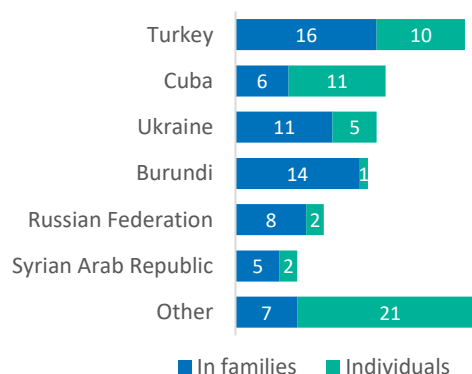


- 5 Unaccompanied or separated children
- 11 Single adult females
- 35 Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

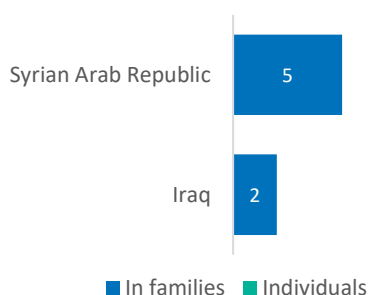


TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



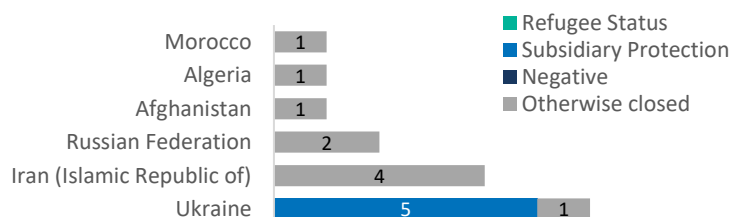
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN SEPTEMBER 2022

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

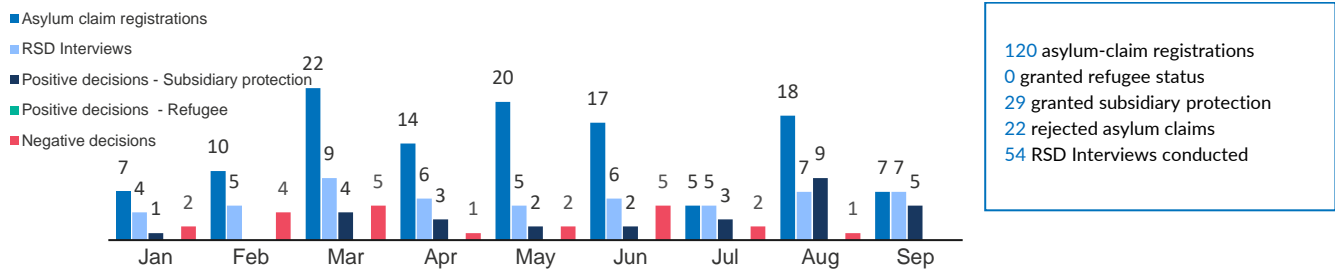


- 0 Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)
- 0 Single adult females
- 4 Children in families

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding
 ** 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, does not factor in appealed decisions.
 *** 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.

REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022

ARRIVAL TRENDS

As previously highlighted, entries in BiH continued to rise in September. Among those newly arrived, the number of Burundians confirmed its increasing trend since late May 2022 and the rise even sharpened in the last two weeks of the month, with over 350 Burundians arriving every week. Conversely, arrivals of Pakistani nationals are this month at their lowest level since last February.

In all TRCs, a large fluctuation of persons has continued to be noted, with increased numbers. As a consequence of this high influx and turnover, distribution of non-food items was reduced to most crucial hygiene items. It is also challenging to reach out extensively to such a changing population and to provide them with information about asylum. To adapt to this context, UNHCR's partners directly and proactively inform new entrees at the gates of TRCs, which allows to reach a much larger number of persons in shorter time.

Such high figures call for the authorities to better identify, as early as possible, those who are genuinely interested in pursuing asylum in the country. Their cases should be treated with priority, as well as cases of vulnerable persons.

PROCESSING TIME FOR UKRAINIANS

Five individuals from Ukraine received subsidiary protection status in September. UNHCR commends the efforts made by the authorities for the asylum procedure to be conducted in a timely manner, as Ukraine is the first country of origin of first instance asylum applicants in BiH during 2022 (23%).

Ukrainians in the asylum procedure in BiH in 2022 have indeed experienced reasonably timely response: the average waiting time between the issuance of their attestation of intention to seek asylum (AISA) and registration of their claim was of 30 days, while the average processing time from registration to first instance decision was of 168 days – approximately five months and a half. It is noticeable that within that period, 155 days were for awaiting registration, while only 13 days accumulated between the refugee status determination interview and the decision. Such a timely decision-making is a positive development, that sets the example to be followed for other asylum-seekers in the country, for whom the average waiting time for a decision was of 307 days in 2022.

About the content of decisions, UNHCR advocates for persons whose claim qualifies to be granted refugee status rather than subsidiary protection. Subsidiary protection status should only be granted to individuals who do not fit the definition of a refugee but are facing real risk of serious harm. It is problematic to grant subsidiary protection to someone who likely fits the definition of a refugee, as it denies him or her access to essential rights including family reunification, travel documentation and a path to naturalization.

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME 2018-2022, as of 30 September**


**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.

***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.

72 days

Average waiting time to register an asylum claim*** for those claims which were registered in 2022, as of 30 September

280 days

Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview for RSD interviews held in 2022, as of 30 September

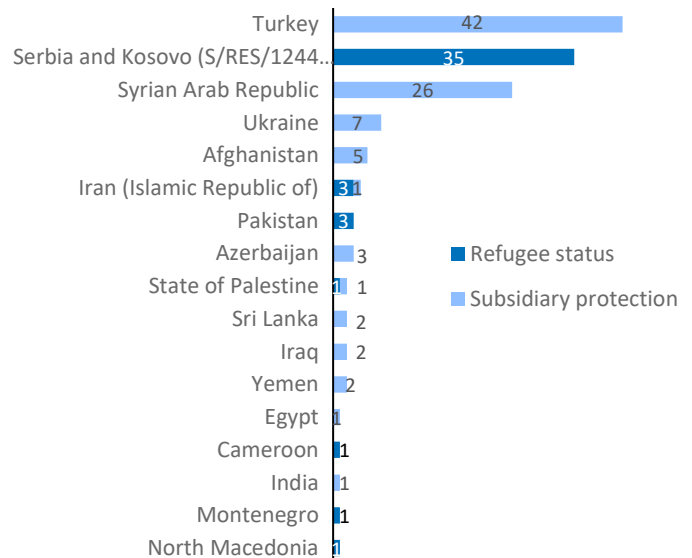
307 days

Average processing time** for first instance decisions issued in 2022, as of 30 September

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications	1,572	785	245	167	120
Refugee ^x status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection ^x status granted	16	41	31	28	29
Rejected applications ^x	45	35	54	49	22
Otherwise closed [*]	741	1,059	546	184	117

^{*} Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

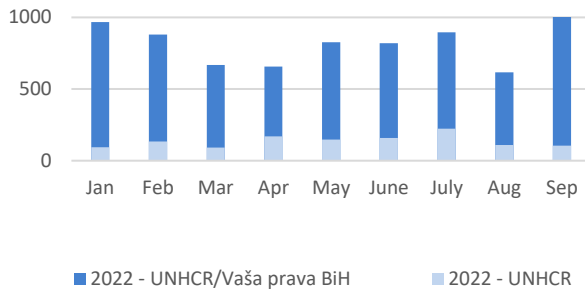
PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin


ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN SEPTEMBER 2022

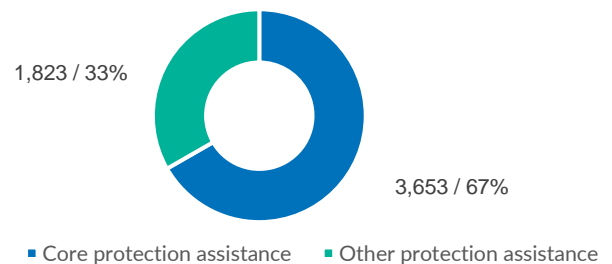
- **1,807** legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH.
- **98** other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities).
- **722** core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities).
- **105** protection and information on access to asylum in BiH assistances provided by UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN 2022

PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



PROTECTION ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN 2022 - UNHCR/BHWI



First day of school for two young Azerbaijanis who, thanks to UNHCR's partner, the Foundation of the Bosnian Women's Initiative, continued their education in BiH



Performance of an awarded theatre play "Game" by Mostar Youth Theatre in Sarajevo on 24 September, supported by UNHCR BiH.

OTHER NEWS IN SEPTEMBER

- Through the publication of a press release and article, UNHCR marked the first day of high school for two brothers, refugees from Azerbaijan, at Sarajevo's High School of Mechanical Engineering. [Read more.](#)
- On 24 September, an awarded theatre play "Game" was performed by the Mostar Youth Theatre in the Chamber Theatre (Kamerni teatar) in Sarajevo. The theatre play is a result of efforts to depict and demonstrate the life stories of refugees to include them in the local community by promoting tolerance and cohesion. By supporting the play's performance in Sarajevo, UNHCR joined the "12 Days of Peace" campaign. [Read more.](#)

Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR BiH in 2022: [United States of America](#) | [European Union](#) | [Austria](#)