

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**529** migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in December, including 10 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), according to authorities. The total number of arrivals in 2020 is 16,150, while 69,413 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

**470** persons (89%) arriving in December expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). In 2020, 15,139 (94%) persons were issued an attestation on their intention to seek asylum (AISA), although only 244 asylum claims were registered.

**11** asylum claims were registered in December, representing 11 cases (3 UASC and 8 single men), of which 9 were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

**9** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in December. 7 in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo and 2 in government-run facilities.

**7** first-instance decisions\* were issued in December, of which all were negative. Of the decisions issued, 1 was for a claim registered in 2020 and the remainder were from 2019.

**4** recognized refugees naturalized in December. 10 former refugees were naturalized as BiH citizens in 2020, all from the former-Yugoslavia.

**6,051** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of December, while 1,900-2,700 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mainly in Una-Sana Canton including 900 at the Lipa site.

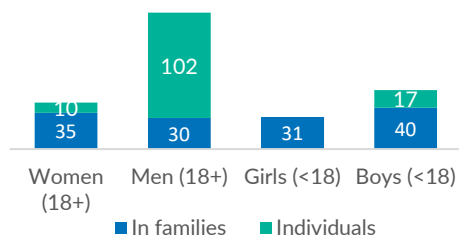
**34** UASC from Una-Sana Canton were transferred to child-friendly accommodation at the youth centre MFS-EMMAUS in Dobo East with UNHCR support in December.

## KEY INDICATORS FOR DECEMBER 2020

- 264** asylum claims were pending at the end of December, of which 51% (136 persons) belonged to families
- 391** persons were awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH at the end of 2020
- 61** refugees in the country at the end of December **5** from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 68** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH at the end of December
- 305 days\*\***, average length of the asylum procedure for decisions issued in December

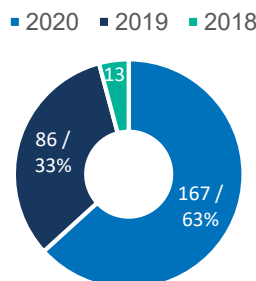
## PENDING RSD INTERVIEW AND/OR DECISION AT THE END OF DECEMBER – TOTAL: 265

AGE AND GENDER

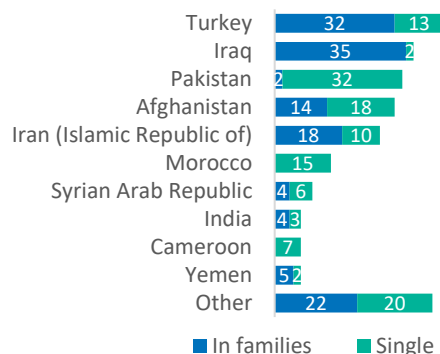


- 17** Unaccompanied or separated children
- 10** Single women
- 71** Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

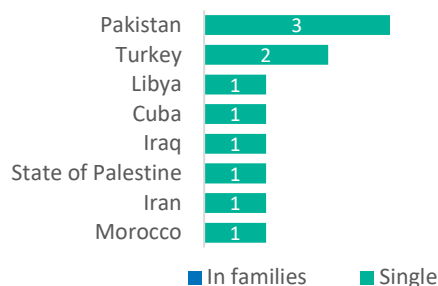


TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



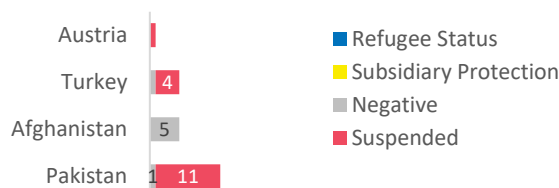
## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN DECEMBER

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



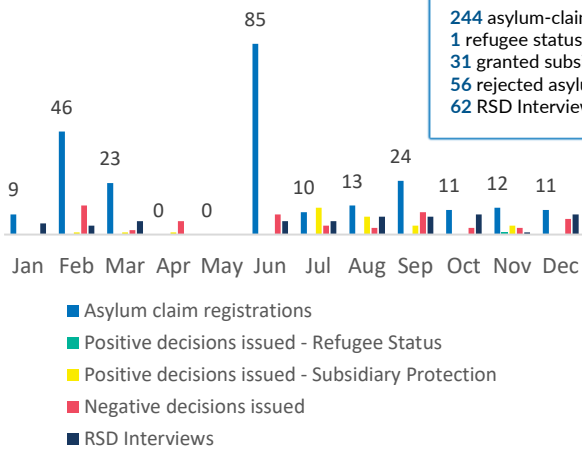
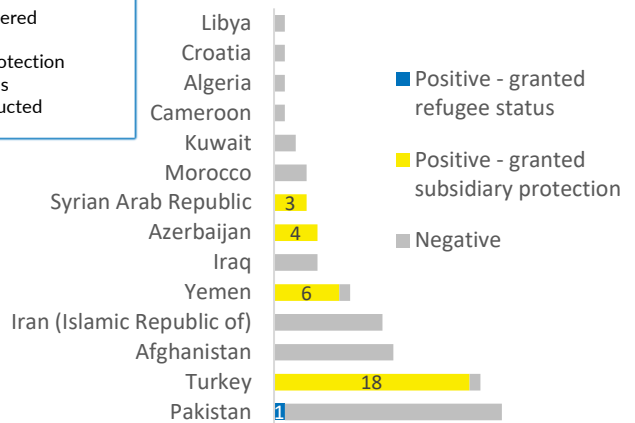
- 3** Unaccompanied and separated children
- 0** Single women
- 0** Children in families

DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



\*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

\*\*Asylum processing in December was adversely impacted by the worsening epidemiological situation in BiH and the preventative measures enacted by the authorities

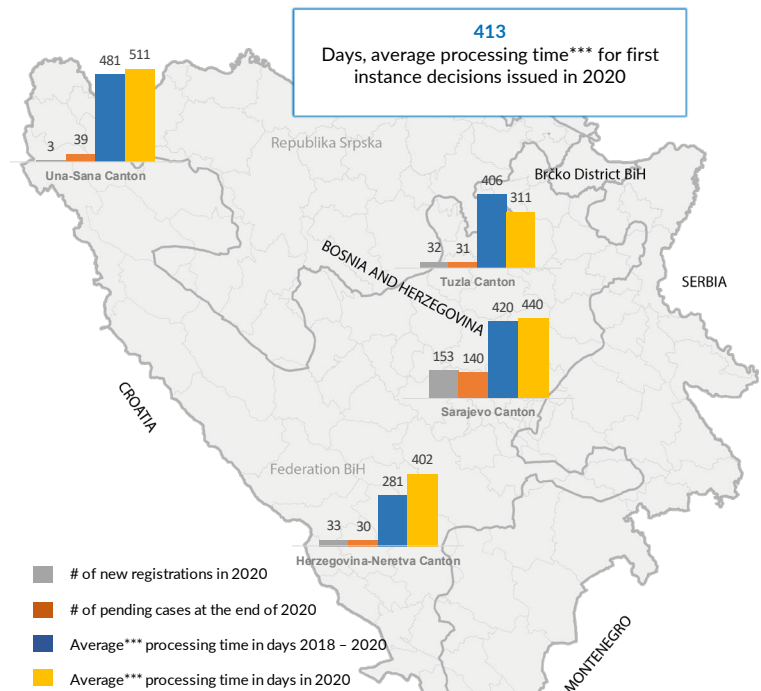
**INDICATORS FOR 2020**
**REGISTRATIONS AND ASYLUM PROCESSING\* IN 2020**

**2020 DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**


Access to asylum and length of the procedure varies markedly depending on where in BiH an individual resides. So far in 2020, no registrations have been scheduled for individuals residing in TRCs Blažuj, Lipa, Miral or Borići.

The 11 asylum claim registrations in December involved: 8 persons in private accommodation, 1 in prison, 1 in the Immigration Center and 1 in Ušivak.



In Decemebr, UNHCR donated winter NFIs including clothes and sleeping bags to the Red Cross of Una-Sana Canton for urgent distribution to those asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants who need it the most.

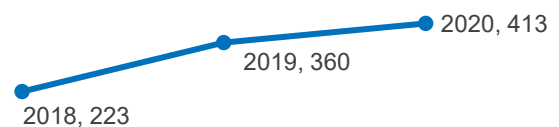


Data presented on the map reflect the asylum-seeker address at the time of asylum claim registration.

**INDICATORS 2018-2020**

	2018	2019	2020
Applications	1,572	785	244
Recognized refugee*	0	3	1
Subsidiary protection*	16	41	31
Rejected applications*	45	35	56
Suspensions*	741	1,059	551

\*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

**AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018 - DECEMBER 2020**


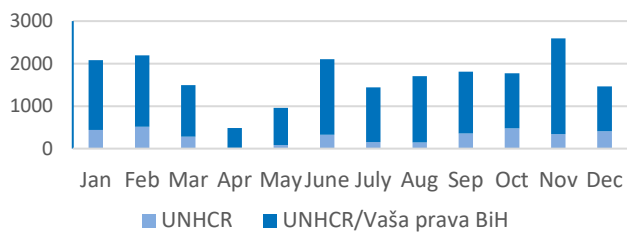
\*\*\*Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level, not individual. The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions.

### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN DECEMBER

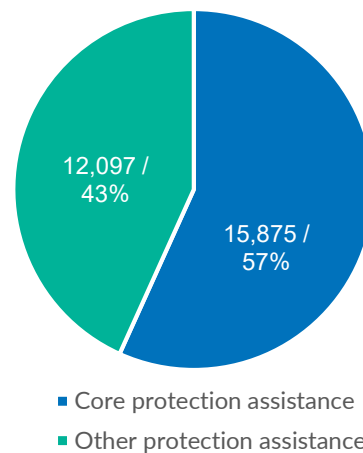
- 1,461 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA III projects)
- 63 vulnerable refugees, persons under subsidiary protection and asylum-seekers supported with humanitarian parcels due to COVID-19 measures with the support of the European Union (IcSP project)
- Using the framework of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, UN Women, UNFPA and UNHCR, with its implementing partner BHWI, ensured availability of preventive messaging through 414 designed posters translated in six key languages (English, Urdu, Pashto, Farsi, Arabic and Kurdish).
- 1,857 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASCs, SGBV activities) with the support from USA.
- 1,034 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, health related assistance, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from USA.
- Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants provided information on access to BiH asylum system to 1,600 persons while their activities are funded by the European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.

### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN 2020

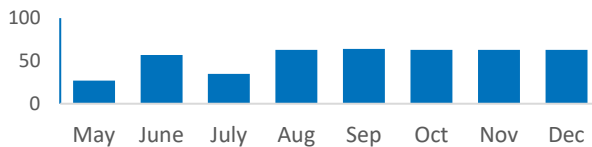
#### PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



#### PROTECTION ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS

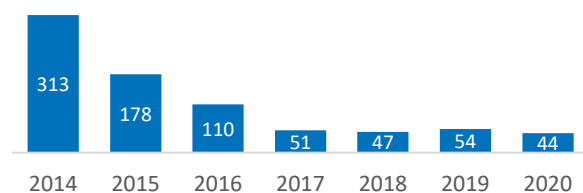


#### HUMANITARIAN PARCELS FOR VULNERABLE PoCs



### STATELESSNESS

Since the beginning of UNHCR's global #IBelong campaign in 2014, UNHCR and partners successfully resolved 797 cases of people at risk of statelessness. Overall, since the beginning of a joint programme with Vaša Prava BiH aimed at the prevention and reduction of statelessness in BiH in 2008, 1,777 persons were assisted with obtaining documents.



### NEWS IN DECEMBER

- 15 Dec 2020, [statement](#) by the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the latest developments with the migrant, refugee and asylum-seeker situation in BiH
- 23 Dec 2020, United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina [statement](#) on the latest developments with the Temporary Reception Camp LIPA
- Part of the IPA project, UNHCR participated in the production of a CwC video produced by IOM, on the topic of access to asylum [More](#).
- In addition to hairdressing workshop opened in November in Temporary Reception Center Borići in Bihać, two more were opened this week in TRCs Ušivak and Blažuj in Sarajevo. [More](#).
- In Una – Sana Canton, UNHCR Senior Protection Liaison Assistants (SPLAs) regularly work in the four reception facilities and provide legal information, protection and other referrals and assist in identifying potential asylum-seekers and their needs. [More](#).

UNHCR is grateful for the support of [Australia](#) | [Canada](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [Japan](#) | [USA](#) | [UN CERF](#)  
 With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Uniqlo](#) | [Unilever](#)  
 UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is grateful for the support of [European Union](#) | [USA](#)