

Bosnia and Herzegovina

773 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in February, including 13 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), according to authorities. The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 1,443, while 70,856 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

689 persons (89%) arriving in February expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

14 asylum claims were registered in February, representing 12 cases (5 UASC, 2 families and 2 single males). 13 registrations were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo out of 44 scheduled.

2 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in February. 1 in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo and 1 in the Immigration Centre Lukavica.

9 decisions* were issued in February, of which all were negative. Of the decisions issued, 7 were first-instance decisions and 2 of them decisions issued upon appeal. 38 asylum claims were suspended during the period.

1 recognized refugee naturalized in February.

5,243 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of February, while some 2,000 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

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

253 days, average amount of time persons waited to register** an asylum claim for those claims registered in February.

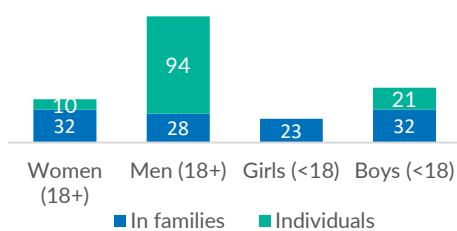
During the reporting period, the BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) began biometric registration of persons accommodated in temporary site Lipa. This is a welcomed development for those that might need international protection as registration is precondition for access to asylum system.

KEY INDICATORS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

- 240 asylum claims were pending at the end of February, of which 48% (115 persons) belonged to persons in families
- 349 persons were awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH at the end of February 2021
- 60 refugees were in the country at the end of February, 5 from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 59 persons under subsidiary protection in BiH at the end of February
- 65 persons at risk of statelessness who are being assisted by UNHCR and partners at the end of February

PENDING ASYLUM CLAIMS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY – TOTAL: 240

AGE AND GENDER

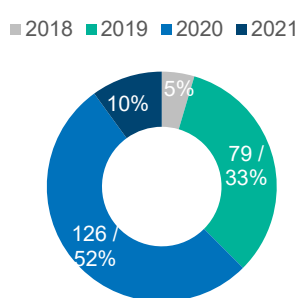


21 Unaccompanied or separated children

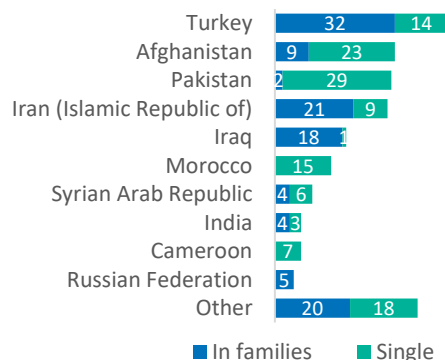
10 Single women

55 Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

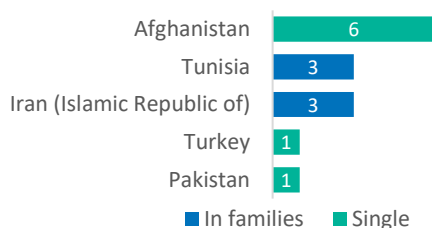


TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN FEBRUARY

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

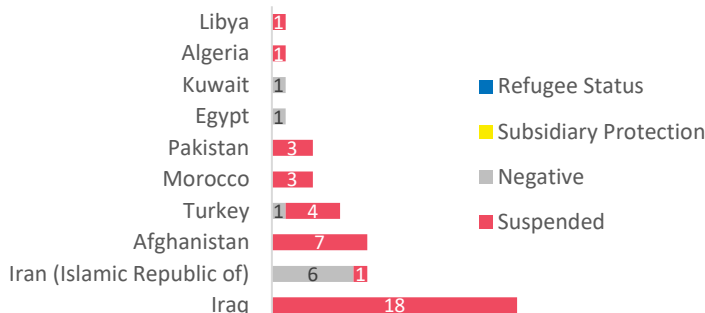


5 Unaccompanied or separated child

0 Single woman

1 Child in family

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

PERSONS AWAITING REGISTRATION OF THEIR ASYLUM CLAIM WITH MOS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY

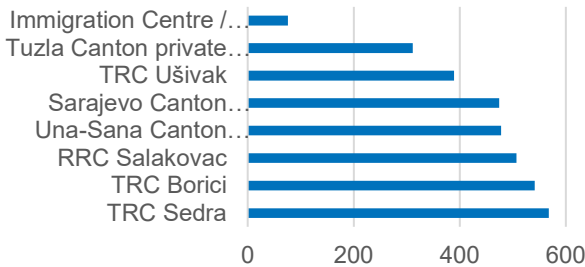
Location	#	Date of last registration with MoS
Private/NGO accommodation In TC	91	January 2021
TRC Ušivak	63	February 2021
TRC Sedra	50	November 2020***
TRC Blažuj	43	No registrations
RRC Salakovac	26	June 2020
AC Delijas	23	June 2020
TRC Borici	20	October 2019
Private accommodation in SC	15	February 2021
TRC Miral	12	No registrations
Private/NGO accommodation in USC	6	October 2019
Lipa Emergency Centre	0	No registrations



In February, together with UNDSS, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA and BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs, UNHCR participated in a workshop for Tuzla Canton Police intended to increase the knowledge and capacities of officers engaged with the mixed movement situation in BiH. UNHCR provided an overview of the international and national legal frameworks encompassing asylum-seekers and refugees as well as recommendations and guidelines for reporting on the refugee and migrant population to help combat racism and xenophobia. PHOTO: UNHCR/Dorijan Klasnić [More](#)

WAITING TIMES AND ASYLUM PROCESSING, 2020-2021

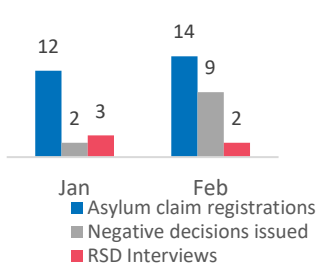
AVERAGE LENGTH OF PROCEDURE IN DAYS FOR DECISIONS ISSUED DURING 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021 PER LOCATION*



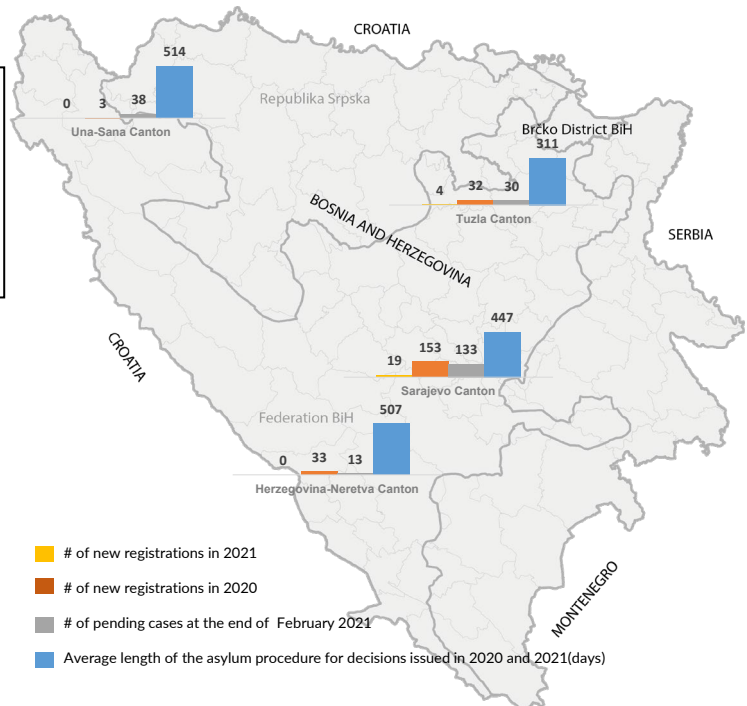
For many people, and depending on the place of residence, registering an asylum claim with the Sector for Asylum can be extremely difficult and for those that are able to register a claim, the waiting time can be quite long. For asylum claims registered so far in 2021, the average time spent waiting to register a claim was **173 days**. Once registered, the processing time before issuance of a final decision is also excessive: 453 days for decisions issued in 2021, meaning that on average people can expect to wait several years from arrival in BiH to receiving a decision on their asylum claim.

INDICATORS 2021

Registration and asylum processing in 2021 as of 28 Feb



26 asylum-claim registrations
 0 granted refugee status
 0 granted subsidiary protection
 11 rejected asylum claims
 5 RSD Interviews



154
 Average number of days persons waited to register an asylum claim** for those claims which were registered in 2020 and 2021

411
 Average processing time* in days for first instance decisions issued in 2020 and 2021, as of the end of February 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, excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.

***Only one registration was conducted for persons residing in Una-Sana Canton in 2020 following UNHCR advocacy.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	26
Recognized refugee**	0	3	1	0
Subsidiary protection**	16	41	31	0
Rejected applications**	45	35	54	11
Suspensions**	741	1,059	546	45

*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed



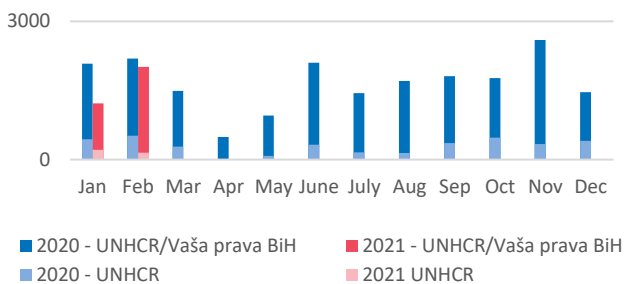
The days can be long for asylum-seekers in reception centres who are awaiting registration of their asylum claims. UNHCR's partner BHWI organizes a range of activities for small groups of women to boost spirits and socialize in a safe and friendly environment. PHOTO: UNHCR/Vanes Pilav

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN FEBRUARY

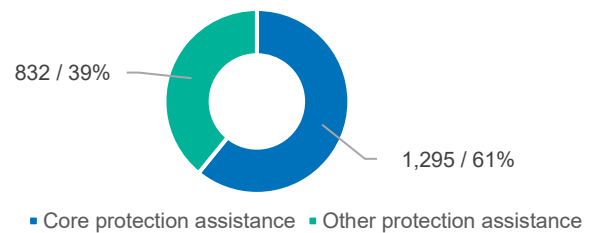
- 2,010 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA III projects)
 - 415 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, health related assistance, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from USA.
- 618 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASCs, SGBV activities) with the support from USA.
- Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants provided information on access to asylum in BiH to 2,013 persons while their activities are funded by the European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR 2020-2021

PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



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



In February, UNHCR supported the Service for Foreigners' Affairs with ICT equipment intended to enable them and other actors to conduct early identification of protection needs and channel migrants and refugees towards an appropriate solution. PHOTO: UNHCR/Vanes Pilav [More](#)



In February, UNHCR provided a Communicating with Refugees training to legal partner Vaša Prava. The topics included working with vulnerable people, verbal and non-verbal communication skills, emotional intelligence, cultural awareness and building and maintaining strong relationships with people whom we work with and for which we work for. PHOTO: Vaša Prava BiH [More](#)

OTHER NEWS IN FEBRUARY

- 11 February, UNHCR Representative and IOM met with the Tuzla Canton PM and discussed the current mixed movement situation and the possibility of establishing a joint presence with SFA (service point) located in the outskirts of Tuzla Canton. [More](#).
- 16 February, on their first meeting of 2021, MHRR and UNHCR Representative discussed the possible ways forward to eradicate the remaining stateless population and a viable action plan to facilitate the local integration of those individuals granted asylum in More.

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