

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1,937 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in May, representing a 50% increase over the previous month and the highest number since August 2020. Of these arrivals, 34 were reported to be unaccompanied children (UASC). The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 5,920, while 75,333 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

1,835 persons (95%) arriving in May expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

3 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in May, one of them in UNHCR's Information Center and two in the Immigration Centre.

1 first-instance decision* was issued in May. A claim submitted in 2021 for a person in the Immigration Centre was rejected. 34 asylum claims were also suspended during the period.

4 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in May, of which 3 were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo and 1 in the Immigration Centre.

3,651 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of May, while 1,600-2,700 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

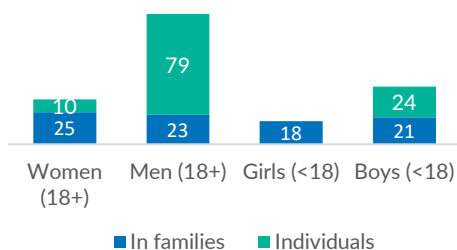
9% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre were conducted, with the vast majority failing to show up or cancelling. Of those, 61% were for UASC and families in TRC Ušivak. The extremely low rate of registrations reflects the continued difficulty of the authorities to identify and triage genuine asylum-seekers.

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF MAY 2021

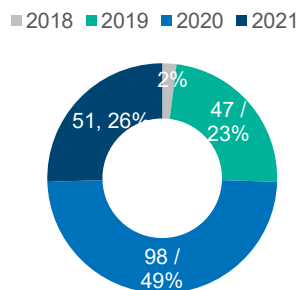
- 200** asylum claims pending, of which 44% (87 people) in families
- 153** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 60** refugees in the country, of which, **5** from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 55** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 68** persons at risk of statelessness and **1** stateless person 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 MAY – TOTAL: 200

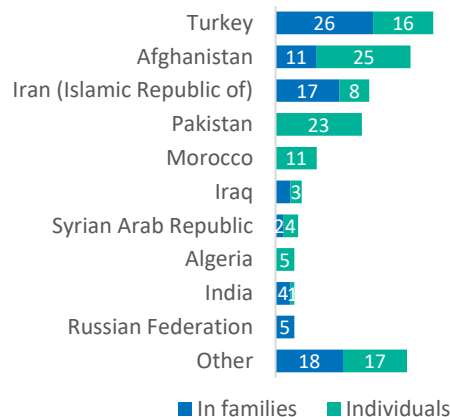
AGE AND GENDER



PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION



TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



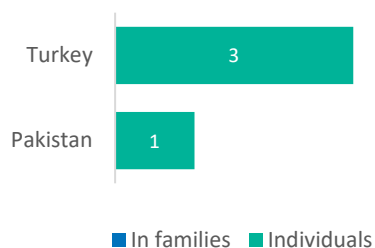
24 Unaccompanied or separated children

10 Single adult females

39 Children in families

ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN MAY 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

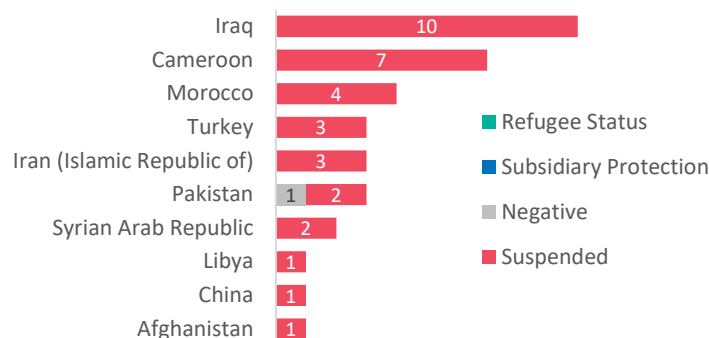


0 Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

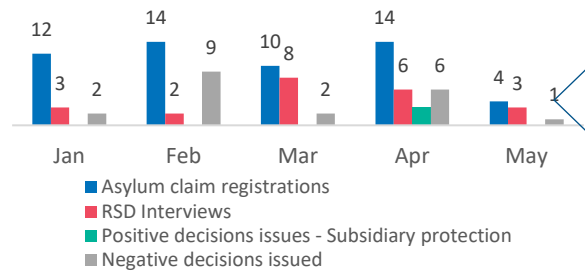
0 Single adult females

0 Children in family

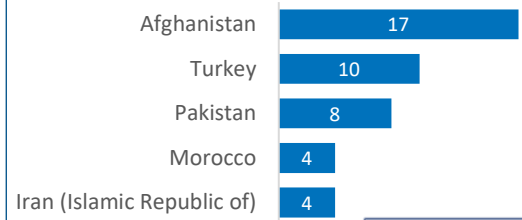
DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

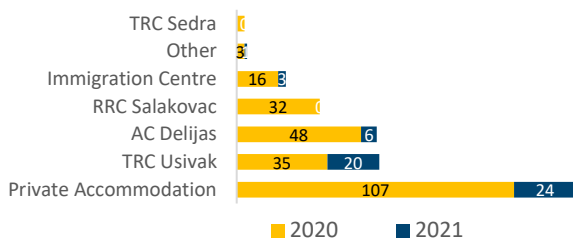
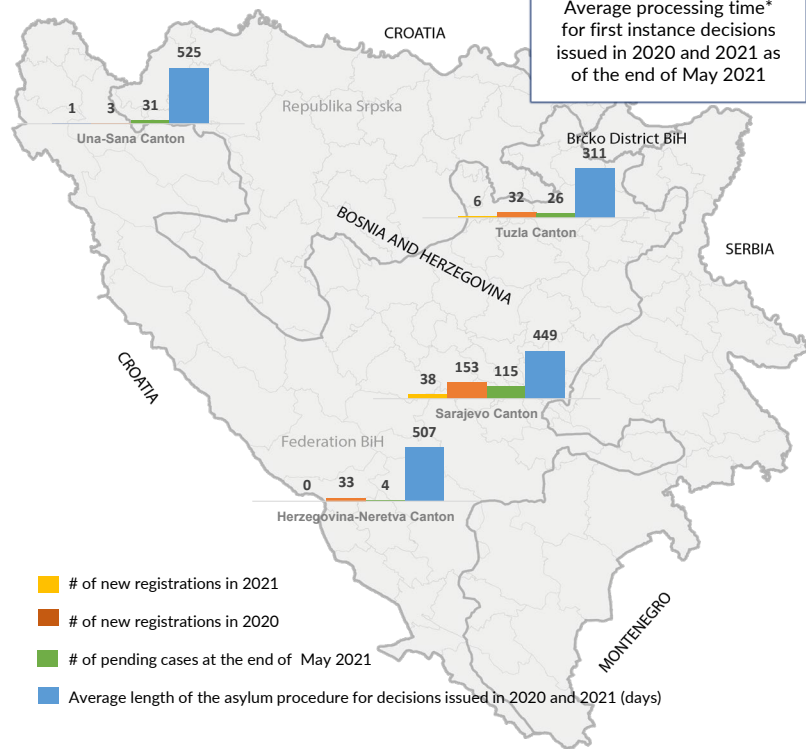
INDICATORS FOR 2021
REGISTRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2021


2021 Totals
 54 asylum-claim registrations
 22 RSD Interviews
 0 granted refugee status
 3 granted subsidiary protection
 20 negative decisions issued

REGISTRATIONS IN 2021: Top 5 Country of Origin


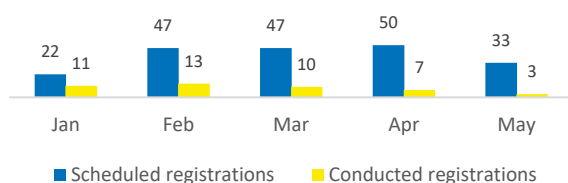
161 days
 Average waiting time to register an asylum claim** for those claims which were registered in 2020 and 2021

416 days
 Average processing time* for first instance decisions issued in 2020 and 2021 as of the end of May 2021

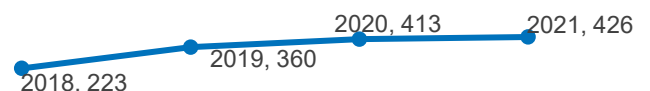
WAITING TIMES* AND ASYLUM PROCESSING****
ASYLUM CLAIM REGISTRATION BY LOCATION 2020-2021 (JAN-MAY)

2020-2021 ASYLUM PROCESS INDICATORS MAP

REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM CLAIM ANALYSIS

While the Sector for Asylum (SA) continues to regularly schedule asylum claim registrations in UNHCR's Info Centre (primarily for persons in private accommodation and TRC Ušivak), very few of those scheduled take place. From January to May 2021, the percentage of registrations conducted versus those scheduled has continued to drop - from 50% in January to 28% in February, 21% in March, 14% in April and only 9% in May.

Registrations in UNHCR Info Centre schedule by SA MoS in 2021



This extremely low rate of registration reflects the inability of the SA to identify and prioritize for registration those individuals interested in pursuing an asylum claim in BiH versus those seeking to move onward. In fact, the current system encourages individuals to register an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) in order to regularize their stay in BiH and access reception accommodation, despite the fact that very few actually intend to remain in the country. Of 5,497 intentions registered in 2021, only 54 asylum claims were registered reflecting both the absence of an effective triage system and the restrictive access for those actually interested. While the SA continues to prioritize the registration of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Ušivak, this prioritization does not reflect the individual's actual intention, meaning that registrations continue to be scheduled for individuals who either do not wish to apply for asylum or have already left the center, thus resulting in this extremely low rate of registration. UNHCR continues to work with both the SFA and the Ministry of Security (MoS) SA to enhance their capacity to early identify and refer asylum-seekers for prioritized registration.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018-2021


**Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made level (not individual). The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not include 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 time when asylum claim was registered, at case level, excluding registrations conducted in Immigration or prison.

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	54
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	0
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	3
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	20
Suspensions*	741	1,059	546	100

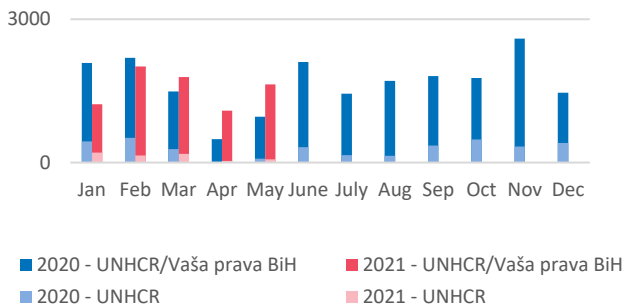
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ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN MAY

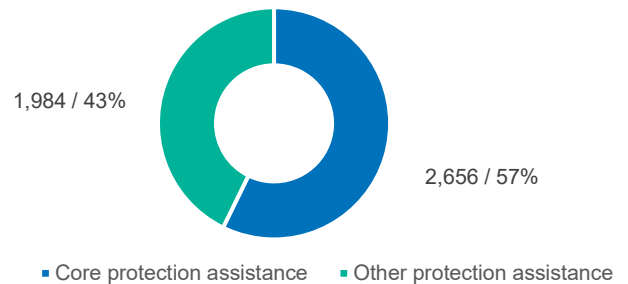
- 1,635 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA III projects)
- 384 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.
- 826 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 2,174 persons.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR 2020-2021

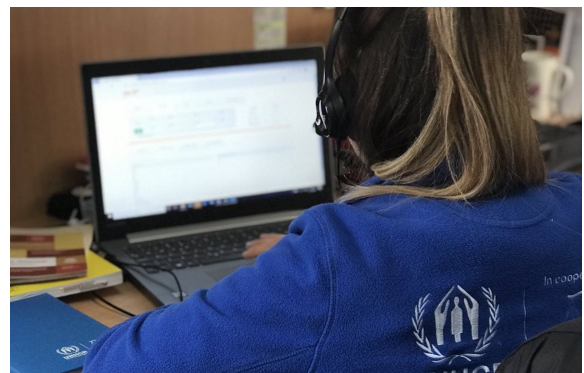
PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



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



The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ingrid Macdonald, and UNHCR Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lucie Gagné talking to an asylum-seeker from Iran currently awaiting resolution of his asylum claim in TRC Sedra.



With EU support, UNHCR in cooperation with its partner, Vaša Prava BiH Association, has launched a free counselling line to facilitate access to information and legal counsel for asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The toll-free telephone line is 0800 2 22 25. [More.](#)

OTHER NEWS IN MAY

- Yahya and Shaban are peer-to-peer educators from Algeria and Pakistan engaged by UNHCR, in cooperation with Vaša Prava BiH, to share personal experiences with prospect asylum-seekers and describe the process, including in their own language. [More.](#)
- The BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR), in cooperation with UNHCR, held the first in a series of thematic round tables dedicated to the specific sets of rights of refugees and people granted subsidiary protection guaranteed by the Law on Asylum, which are important segments of integration. [More.](#)
- In BiH since mid-2019 and obtaining the right to seek employment, Kamyar was recruited by UNHCR legal partner Vaša Prava BiH to act as Peer-to-Peer communicator and assist in providing information about access to the country's asylum system in the language of people interested in seeking safety in BiH. [More.](#)
- The Council of Europe launched its first ever regional HELP online course on "Refugee and Migrant Children" in the Western Balkans, in co-operation with UNHCR and EASO, hosted by the CoE Office in Sarajevo. [More.](#)
- LGBTIQ+ individuals on the move are not always easily identified, and may require additional support, especially for those who are survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). [More.](#)
- Peer-to-peer sessions for prospect asylum-seekers improve understanding of international protection and provide valuable feedback. [More.](#)

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