

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1,217 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in October, representing a 22% decrease over September 2021, but an 11% increase compared to October 2020. As with the previous three months, there were no UASC amongst irregular arrivals in October. The total number of arrivals in 2021 is 14,511, which is on par with 2020 figures (14,557), while 83,924 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

1,133 persons (93%) arriving in October expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

6 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in October, five of them in UNHCR's Information Centre and one in Immigration Centre.

12 first-instance decisions* were issued in October: **2** granting derivative refugee status, **5** subsidiary protection and **5** negative decisions. 18 asylum claims were suspended, and one negative decision was issued on appeal.

34 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in October, all were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo

433 days - the length of the asylum procedure for the first-instance decisions** issued in October.

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

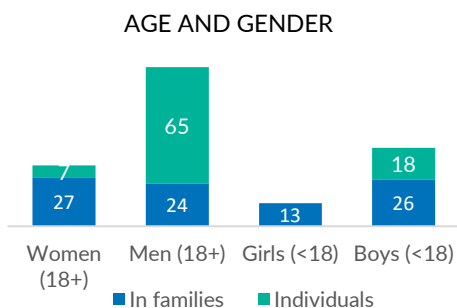
2,978 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of October, while 800-1,100 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

59% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre were conducted

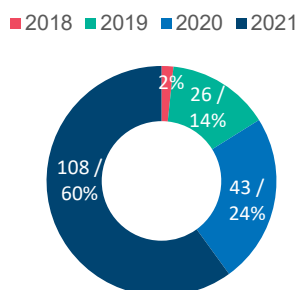
KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF OCTOBER 2021

- 180** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 50% (90 people) involved persons in families
- 91** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 54** refugees in the country, of which **7** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 67** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 132** stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness being assisted by UNHCR and partners

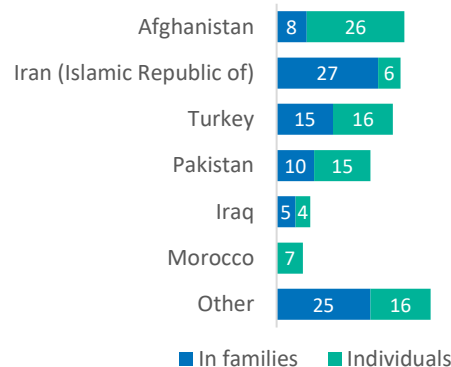
ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF OCTOBER – TOTAL: 180



PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION



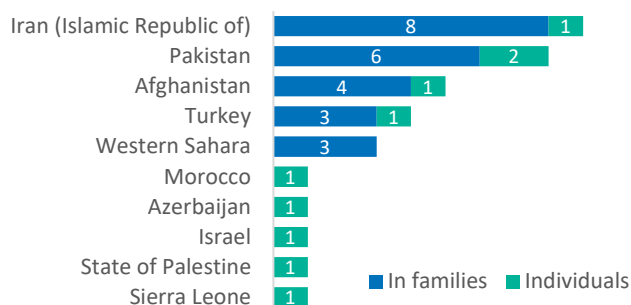
TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



18 Unaccompanied or separated children
7 Single adult females
39 Children in families

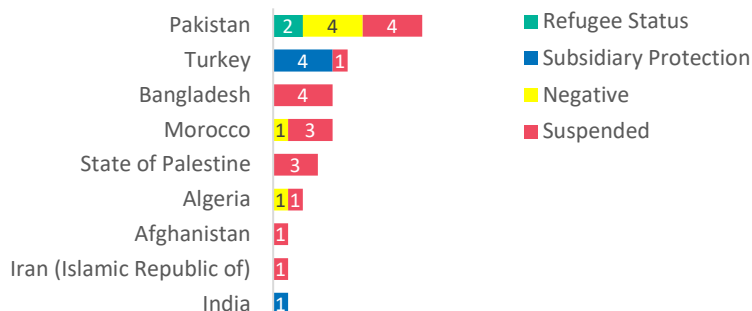
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN OCTOBER 2021

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

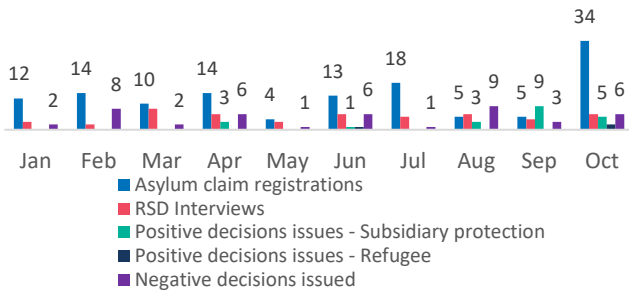


1 Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)
0 Single adult female
9 Children in families

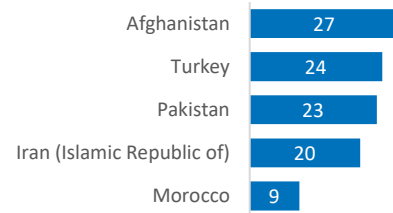
DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



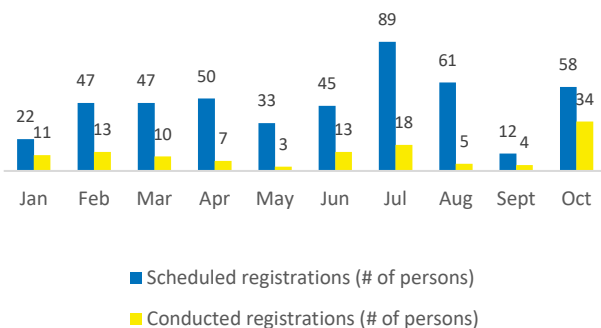
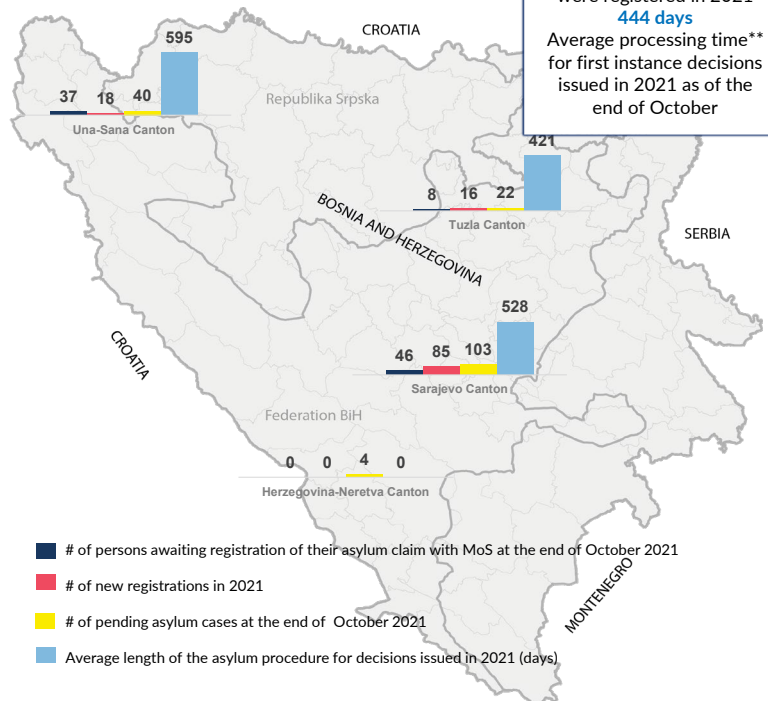
* Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

INDICATORS FOR 2021
REGISTRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSING IN 2021


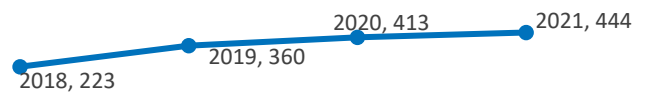
129 asylum-claim registrations
 49 RSD Interviews conducted
 3 granted refugee status
 21 granted subsidiary protection
 44 rejected asylum claims

REGISTRATIONS IN 2021: Top 5 Country of Origin
Origin

ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE

In October, the Sector for Asylum conducted the highest number of registrations of any month in 2021, registering 34 people (compared with single-digit registrations in the previous two months). Significantly, not only were more people registered than in previous months, but the percentage of scheduled registrations that were conducted was also the highest compared to any previous month in 2021, with 59% of scheduled appointments being filled (in August just 8% of scheduled registrations were conducted). This increase in the number and percentage of registrations conducted demonstrates an improvement in the Sector for Asylum's ability to differentiate between genuine asylum-seekers and migrants in transit in a context where all irregular arrivals are issued an attestation of expressed intention to apply for asylum, regardless of actual intention.

REGISTRATIONS IN UNHCR INFO CENTRE IN 2021

2021 ASYLUM PROCESS INDICATORS MAP


197 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 as of the end of October

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018-2021


In addition, there was a significant increase in the number of persons registered from Una-Sana Canton, with 12 out of 34 persons registered (12/19 cases) involving persons residing in Una-Sana Canton. Notably, one individual from TRC Miral was registered, representing the first registration from the camp since its opening in October 2018, while 5 registrations were conducted for residents of TRC Borići, the first from the centre since October 2019. Prior to October, only 2 persons had been registered from Una-Sana Canton in 2021, and none who were residing in any of the TRCs. UNHCR has been advocating consistently for the Sector for Asylum to ensure access to asylum for all those interested in applying and is encouraged by these latest developments. However, access to asylum remains problematic in BiH, particularly for residents of TRC Blažuj, where no individuals have been invited for registration since the camp opened in December 2019.

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.

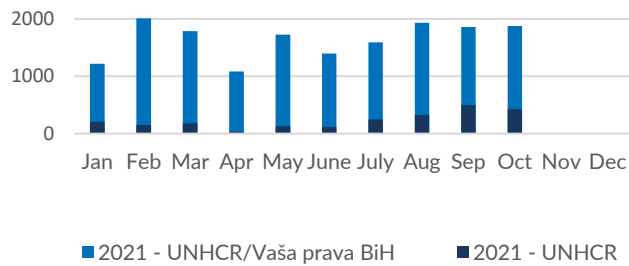
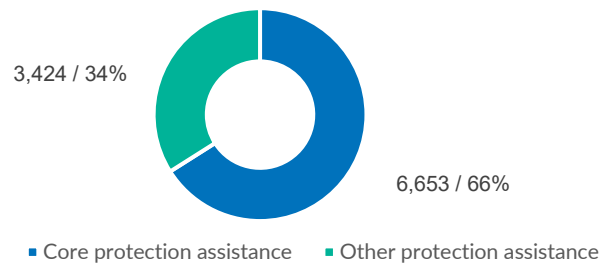
ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	245	129
Refugee ^x status granted	0	3	1	3
Subsidiary protection ^x status granted	16	41	31	21
Rejected applications ^x	45	35	54	44
Suspensions ^x	741	1,059	546	163

^x Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN OCTOBER

- 1,862 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.
 - 442 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.
 - 739 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.
- Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants have provided information on access to asylum in BiH to **3,466** persons.

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

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


UNHCR partner Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative together with persons under international protection distributed food on 24 October, the United Nations Day



On 28 October, UNHCR Representative in BiH, Ms. Lucie Gagné and the Prime Minister handed over a van to the Red Cross of USC, which will be used for all regular activities of providing support and assistance to population in need.

OTHER NEWS IN OCTOBER

- With support of funding from the European Union, the UNHCR Representative in BiH, Ms. Lucie Gagné, and the Prime Minister of Una-Sana Canton, Mustafa Ruznic, handed over a new van to the Red Cross of Una-Sana Canton. [More.](#)
- UNHCR partner BHWI participated at the first-ever #UNFestivalBiH, organized on occasion on the UN Day, 24 October. They presented some of the traditional dishes prepared by persons under international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [More.](#)
- From September 26 until October 3, representatives of UNHCR, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) and the Ministry of Security (MoS) conducted a one-week study visit to Rome and Bologna, sharing best practices with the authorities responsible for the asylum system in Italy. [More.](#)

UNHCR is grateful for the support of [Norway](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Private Donors Spain](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Private donors Republic of Korea](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Germany](#) | [Japan](#) | [Private Donors Japan](#) | [France](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Private donors Italy](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Private Donors Sweden](#) | [Italy](#)

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](#) | [Austria](#) | [Italy](#) | [Denmark](#)