

Bosnia and Herzegovina

715 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in February, representing a 39% increase over January 2022, and an 8% decrease compared to February 2021. 86,384 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

583 persons (75%) arriving in February expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Afghanistan (40%), Cuba (16%) and Pakistan (9%).

5 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in February, all of them in UNHCR's Information Centre.

4 decisions* were issued in February, all of them rejections. 6 asylum applications were otherwise closed (5 cases involving 6 persons suspended).

10 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in February, 6 of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo, 2 in AC Delijaš and 2 in prison.

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

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

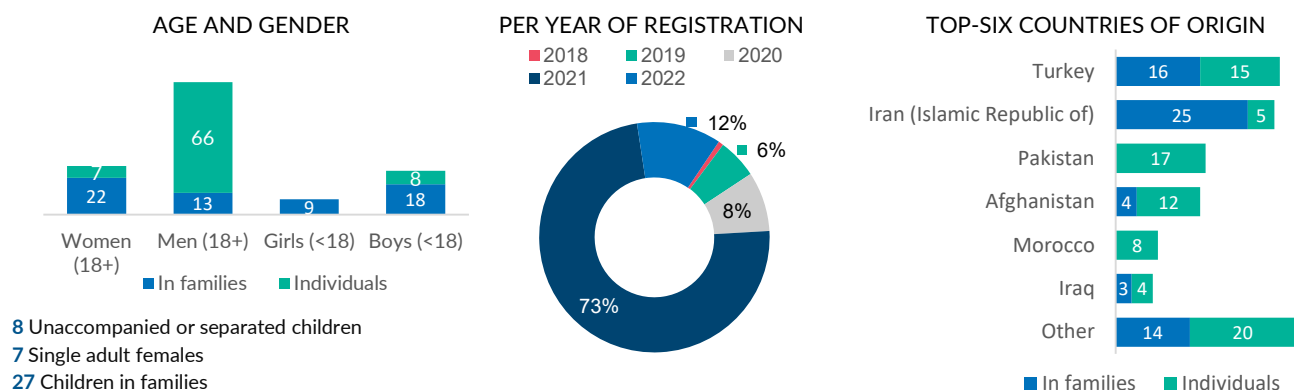
2,173 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of February, while 400 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

60% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre for February were conducted.

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF FEBRUARY 2022

- 143** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 43% (62 people) involved persons in families
- 34** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 51** refugees in the country, of which **8** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 69** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 96** stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness being assisted by UNHCR and partners

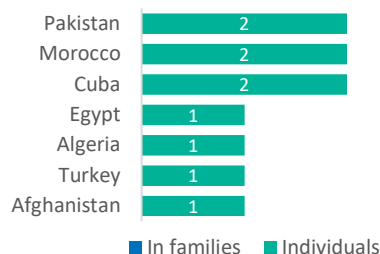
ASYLUM CLAIMS PENDING PROCESSING AND FINAL DECISION AT THE END OF FEBRUARY – TOTAL: 143



8 Unaccompanied or separated children
7 Single adult females
27 Children in families

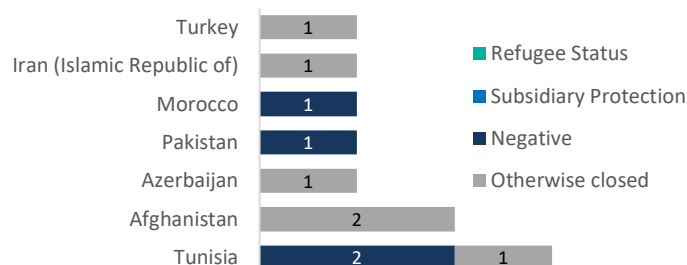
ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN FEBRUARY 2022

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



1 Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)
2 Single adult females
0 Children in families

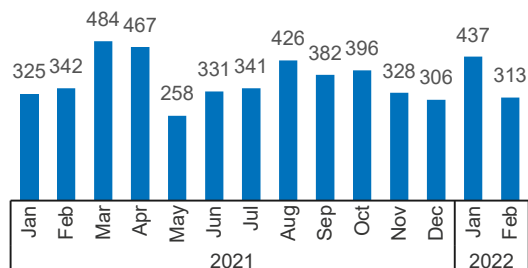
DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

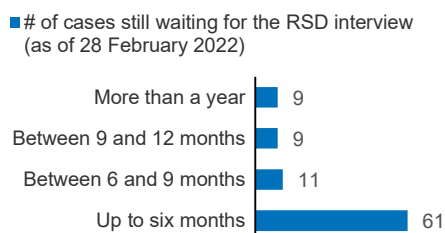
LONG WAITING TIMES BETWEEN REGISTRATION AND RSD INTERVIEW

AVERAGE TIME BETWEEN REGISTRATION AND RSD INTERVIEW 2021-2022

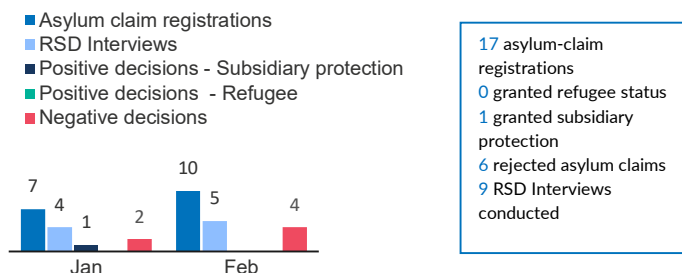


In February, the lowest average time spent waiting for asylum claim registration was recorded since September 2020. The maximum number of days asylum-seekers had to wait to get registered was 91 days in February. This is a noticeable decrease in comparison to the average waiting time in 2021 (181 days). Despite this increase, the average time between an asylum claim registration and RSD interview remains lengthy. According to the BiH law, the procedure should take a maximum of 6 months. However, in February 2022, the average number of days between registration and RSD interview for 5 interviews was 313 days. In addition, among the 90 pending cases (114 persons) who did not have their RSD interview yet, 9 cases have not been interviewed after one year since they registered their claim, while the average number of days of all pending RSD interviews (90 cases) is 165 days. This lengthy waiting time between registration and RSD interview contributes to a vast majority of asylum-seekers abandoning the procedure before their RSD interview or issuance of a decision. So far in 2022, for suspended claims, the average number of days between registration and the first-instance decision is 320. In January and February, 35 claims were suspended as opposed to 7 claims decided (1 positive and 6 negative). The excessive length of the asylum procedure likely discourages many from applying for asylum and for those that do, contributes to most abandoning the procedure prior to issuance of a decision.

CASES AWAITING RSD INTERVIEW

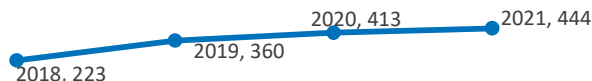


REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022



17 asylum-claim registrations
0 granted refugee status
1 granted subsidiary protection
6 rejected asylum claims
9 RSD Interviews conducted

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME** 2018-2021



78 days
Average waiting time to register an asylum claim*** for those claims which were registered in 2022

313 days
Average time (days) from registration of asylum claim to RSD interview for RSD interviews held in February 2022

305 days
Average processing time** for first instance decisions issued in February 2022

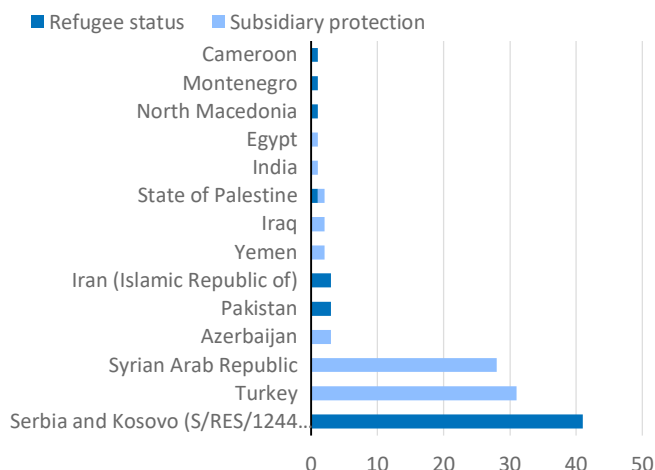
Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level (not individual). The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions. *Waiting time for registrations is calculated as the number of days between AISA issuance and the date when asylum claim was registered, at case level, excluding registrations conducted in Immigration Centre or prison.

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications	1,572	785	245	167	17
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	28	1
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	49	6
Otherwise closed*	741	1,059	546	184	35

*Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin

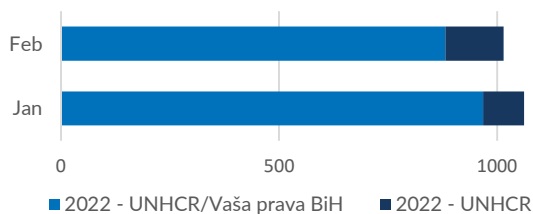


ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN FEBRUARY

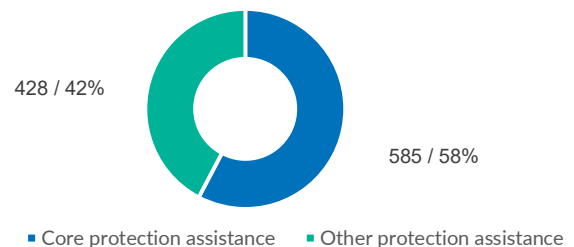
- **747** legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from AMIF.
- **236** other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities).
- **257** core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities).
- **134** protection and information on access to asylum in BiH assistances provided by UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants with support from AMIF.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR -2022

PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



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



On 1 February, UNHCR Representative Lucie Gagné handed over a vehicle to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) aiming to improve identification and referrals to the asylum system.



UNHCR partner BHWI in cooperation with the Institute for Women's Health and Maternity of Sarajevo Canton, organized the first training session on "Reproductive Health Care in Exile", on 18 February in AC Delijaš with the aim to provide support and protection of reproductive health of people in need of protection.

OTHER NEWS IN FEBRUARY

- On 1 February, the UNHCR Representative in BiH handed over a new vehicle to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) to ensure effective identification of protection needs amongst mixed migration arrivals to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and refer them to relevant BiH authorities and appropriate services. [More](#).
- On 9 February, UNHCR published a video story about a refugee from Iran who claimed asylum in BiH in 2019 and finally was granted refugee status in December 2021. He is one of those who wanted to seek protection in BiH and see their future in BiH. [See video](#).
- On 28 February, UNHCR participated in a live morning programme on N1 TV that was broadcast nationwide giving a statement on our commitment to stand ready and support the BiH authorities with a potential influx of persons fleeing from Ukraine. [More](#).

UNHCR is grateful for the support of [Sweden](#) | [Norway](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Germany](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Ireland](#)
UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is grateful for the support of [Austria](#) | [European Union](#)