

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

**1,010** migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in March, representing a 41% increase over February 2022, and an 20% decrease compared to March 2021. 87,394 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

**866** persons (86%) arriving in March expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Pakistan (27%), Afghanistan (27%), Bangladesh (7%) and India (7%).

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

**14** decisions\* were issued in March: **4** granting subsidiary protection and **10** negative decisions. 14 asylum applications were otherwise closed (8 cases involving 13 persons suspended and one dismissed).

**22** asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in March, 13 of them were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo, 8 in AC Delijaš and 1 in Immigration Centre.

**382 days** - the length of the asylum procedure for first-instance decisions\*\* issued in March.

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

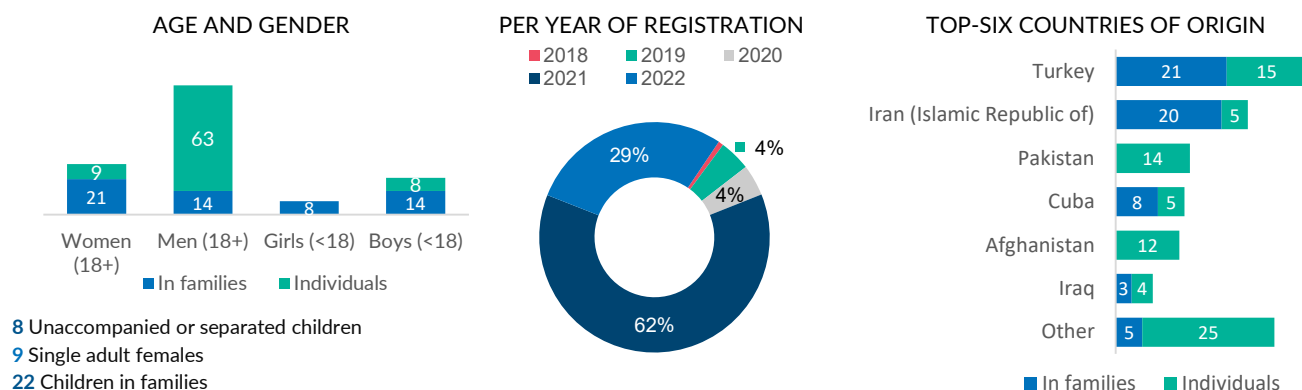
**1,896** asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of March, while 350 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

**57%** of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR's Info Centre for March were conducted.

## KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF MARCH 2022

- 137** registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 42% (57 people) involved persons in families
- 21** people awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH
- 49** refugees in the country, of which **8** are from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 69** persons under subsidiary protection in BiH
- 89** 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 MARCH – TOTAL: 137



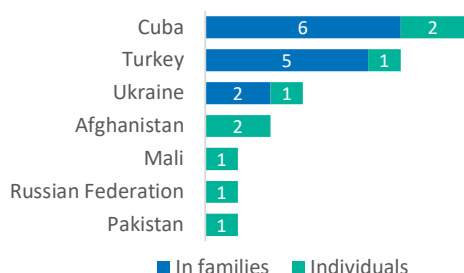
**8** Unaccompanied or separated children

**9** Single adult females

**22** Children in families

## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN MARCH 2022

### REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

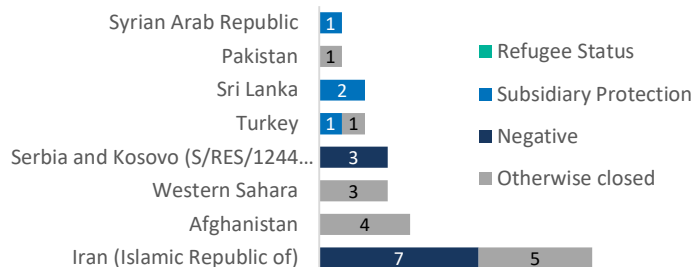


**1** Unaccompanied or separated child (UASC)

**2** Single adult females

**2** Children in families

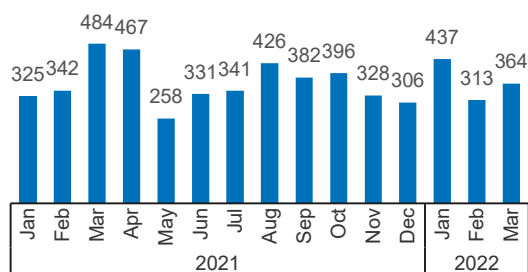
### DECISIONS\* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

## LENGTH OF ASYLUM PROCEDURE

### LENGTH BETWEEN REGISTRATION AND RSD INTERVIEW



72 days

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

366 days

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

342 days

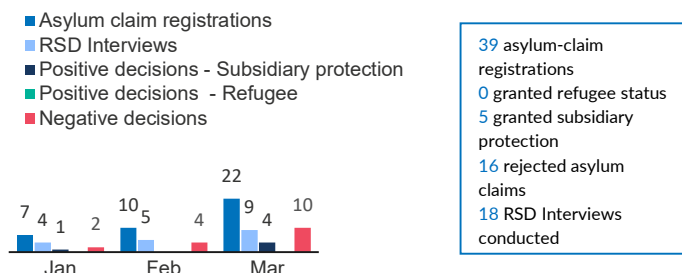
Average processing time\*\* for first instance decisions issued in 2022

### UKRAINIANS IN FOCUS

In March, 2660 persons who were forced to flee Ukraine due to the ongoing war arrived to Bosnia and Herzegovina and 2,223 exited. BiH authorities shared that in case of an influx, Asylum Centre Delijaš and Refugee Reception Centre Salakovac can be used to accommodate Ukrainian refugees, as well as TRC Ušivak. Most of them entered the country under a 30-day non-visa stay. The BiH Ministry of Security prepared decisions that should be brought to the BiH Council of Ministers (CoM), including a draft decision on temporary residence on humanitarian grounds for a stay of up to 6 months that will be discussed by the CoM in April. According to the legislation, this type of residence does not provide any rights for Ukrainians, except for legal residence. Moreover, BiH authorities decided not to implement the option of temporary protection which exists in the legislative arsenal of BiH (Law on Asylum), which aims to help refugees to stay in a country and also have access to rights and services, such as accessing the labor market and education. UNHCR continues to emphasize the importance of offering protection, which is adapted to persons fleeing from Ukraine, Ukrainians and third-country nationals alike, and ensuring their access to rights and services in the country.

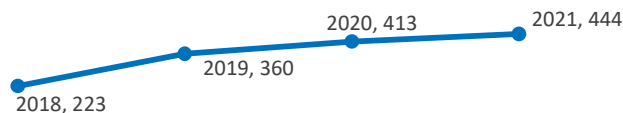
There were 3 asylum claim registrations in March for persons from Ukraine. Out of the 866 persons who expressed their intention to seek asylum in BiH during March, 9 are for Ukrainian nationals. Out of those, 8 are represented by UNHCR partner Vaša Prava BiH and for three of them, the asylum claim registration was conducted during the same month. Even though refugees coming from Ukraine have access to asylum in BiH, there is limited information provided by the BiH authorities to the refugees about the options to stay in BiH.

## REGISTRATIONS AND PROCESSING IN 2022



39 asylum-claim registrations  
0 granted refugee status  
5 granted subsidiary protection  
16 rejected asylum claims  
18 RSD Interviews conducted

## AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME\*\* 2018-2021



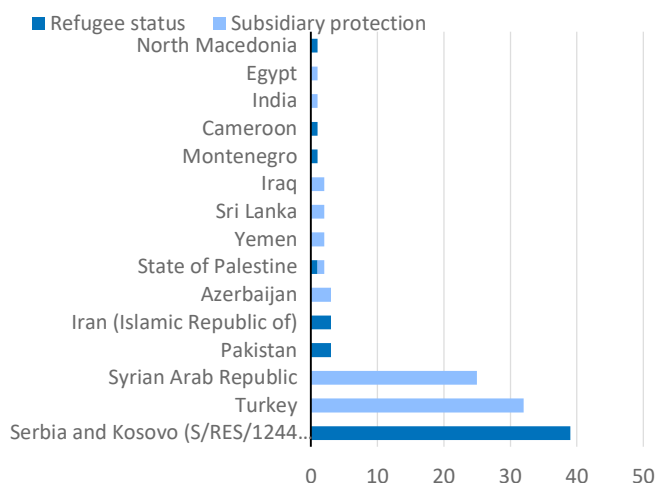
\*\*Average processing time (days) from registration of asylum-claim to first-instance decision made at case level (not individual). The data only includes decisions made at first instance and does not factor in appealed decisions. \*\*\*Waiting time for registrations is calculated as the number of days 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	39
Refugee* status granted	0	3	1	5	0
Subsidiary protection* status granted	16	41	31	28	5
Rejected applications*	45	35	54	49	16
Otherwise closed*	741	1,059	546	184	49

\* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding

## PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin

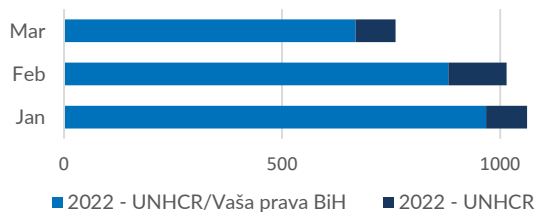


### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN MARCH

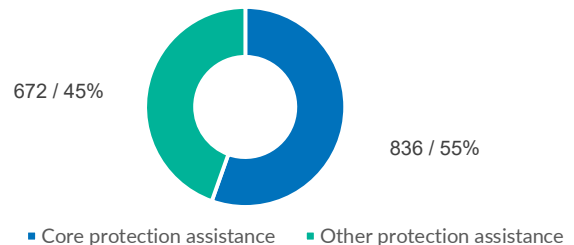
- **576** legal aid and information assistances provided by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from AMIF.
- **244** other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, occupational/recreational activities).
- **251** core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASC, GBV activities).
- **92** 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 8 March, UNHCR partner BHWI marked International Women's Day with asylum-seekers residing in AC Delijaš and private accommodation in Sarajevo through a workshop entitled "March 8 through time and different cultures".



On 30 March, practitioners from the BiH authorities, UNHCR and Vasa Prava BiH gathered to participate in a lecture on "assessment of credibility in the asylum cases" from Mr. Gabor Peter Gyulai from the Hungarian Helsinki Committee.

### OTHER NEWS IN MARCH

- On 8 March, UNHCR partner BHWI marked International Women's Day with asylum-seekers residing in AC Delijaš and private accommodation in Sarajevo through a workshop entitled "March 8 through time and different cultures". Centre residents from Yemen, Cuba, Azerbaijan, and Iran presented their country through the cultural heritage and customs of women. [More](#).
- On 11 March, UNHCR BiH representatives aired on BHRT Live to provide an explanation on UNHCR's response to the war in Ukraine. [See video](#).
- On 30 March, UNHCR organized a training on assessing the credibility of asylum cases for the BiH Court, the MoS/Sector for Asylum, BiH Ministry of Justice and Vaša Prava BiH with an external lecturer, Mr. Gabor Peter Gyulai, who is an expert for credibility assessment in asylum claims from the Hungarian Helsinki Committee. [More](#).
- On 31 March, UNHCR organized a training for Vaša Prava BiH lawyers about strategic litigation with the aim to bring about a positive change in the asylum-related policies, legislation and practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [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](#)