

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

670 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in January, including 7 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), according to authorities. This is a 24% decrease compared to the total number of arrivals in January 2020 (882), which was pre-COVID. 70,083 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

580 persons (87%) arriving in January expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA).

12 asylum claims were registered in January, representing 10 cases (1 UASC, 1 single woman, 1 family and 7 single men), of which 11 were conducted in UNHCR's Information Centre in Sarajevo.

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

2 first-instance decisions\* were issued in January, of which both were negative. Of the decisions issued, 1 was for a claim registered in 2020 and the other from 2019. 7 asylum claims were suspended during the period.

5,880 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of January, while 2,500-2,700 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mainly in Una-Sana Canton including more than 900 at the Lipa site.



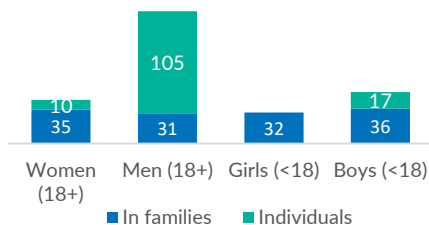
UNHCR BiH Representative Lucie Gagné visits the Lipa Site in mid-January. Following the fire which destroyed the camp in December, BiH authorities are making considerable progress in identifying interim solutions for some 900 individuals on site, including by providing basic humanitarian assistance.

## KEY INDICATORS FOR JANUARY 2021

- 266 asylum claims were pending at the end of January, of which 50% (134 persons) belonged to persons in families
- 490 persons were awaiting registration of their asylum claim with the assistance of UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH at the end of January 2021
- 61 refugees were in the country at the end of January, 5 from outside of the former Yugoslavia
- 68 persons under subsidiary protection in BiH at the end of January
- 68 persons at risk of statelessness and are being assisted by UNHCR and partners at the end of January

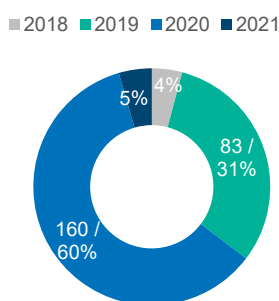
## PENDING ASYLUM CLAIMS AT THE END OF JANUARY – TOTAL: 266

AGE AND GENDER

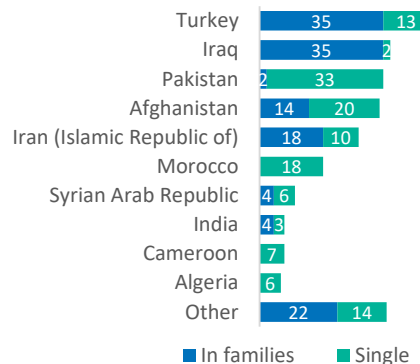


- 17 Unaccompanied or separated children
- 10 Single women
- 68 Children in families

PER YEAR OF REGISTRATION

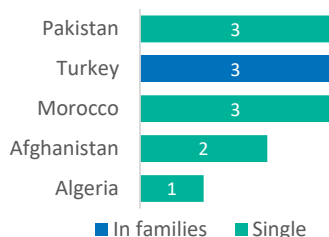


TOP-TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



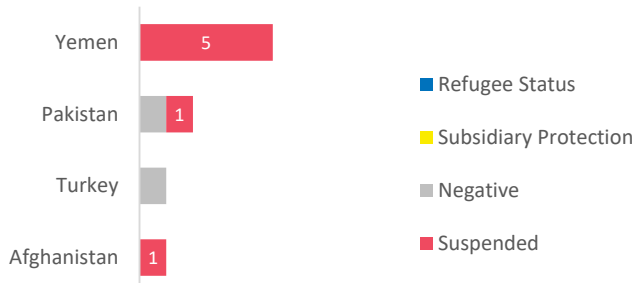
## ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN JANUARY

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



- 1 Unaccompanied or separated child
- 1 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 JANUARY**

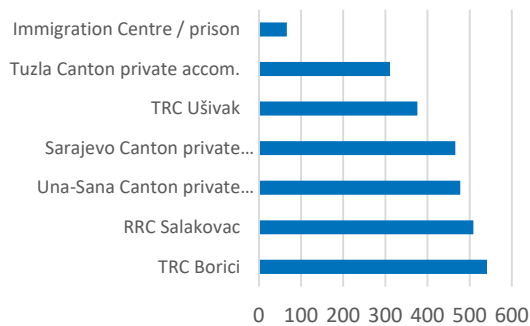
Location	#
TRC Ušivak	118
Private and NGO accommodation in Tuzla Canton	110
TRC Blažuj	85
TRC Sedra	45
AC Delijas	41
TRC Borici	33
RRC Salakovac	24
Private accommodation in Sarajevo Canton	15
TRC Miral	13
Private accommodation in Una-Sana Canton	6



Co-funded by IcSP, UNHCR staff working in TRC Sedra provide protection counseling to people awaiting to have their claim registered by the authorities.

**INDICATORS 2018-2021**

AVERAGE LENGTH OF PROCEDURE IN DAYS FOR DECISIONS ISSUED DURING 2020 - JANUARY 2021 PER LOCATION\*

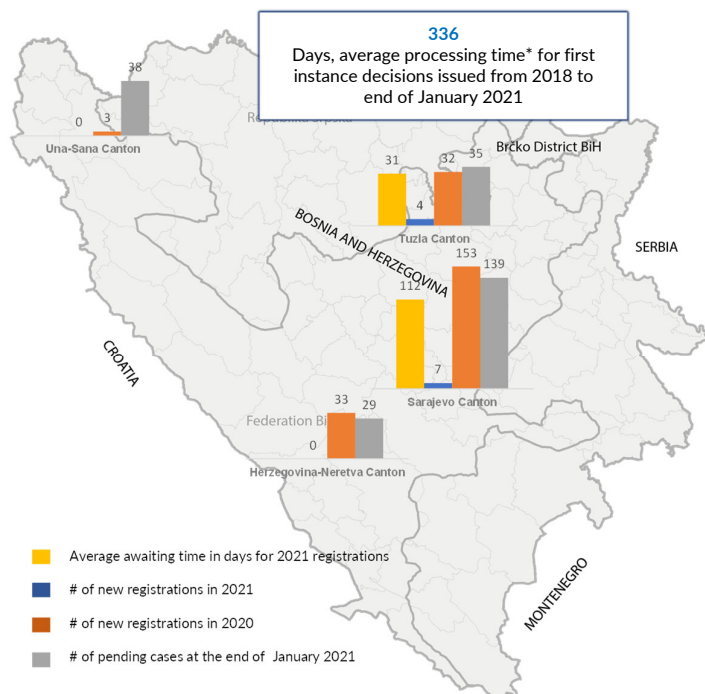


Average processing times for asylum applications vary by location and type of accommodation. With individuals residing in TRCs tending to wait longer for a final decision on their asylum claims than those in private accommodation.

On average, the processing time for asylum decisions issued in 2020 and 2021 was 409 days, however, for claims registered in the Immigration Centre or prison, the average was just 66 days. The average processing time for decisions issued for residents of TRCs exceeded one year, with residents of TRC Borici experiencing an average processing time of 541 days.

In addition to the asylum claim processing time, many people must wait a considerable amount of time to register their asylum claim with MoS, a factor which is also dependent on location and type of accommodation. Priority continues to be given to UASC in TRC Ušivak and persons in private accommodation. No registrations were conducted for persons in TRC Blažuj since it opened in December 2019, and in Una-Sana Canton, only one family was registered last year following UNHCR advocacy, while previously the last registration was in October 2019. For the government-run centres, AC Delijaš and RRC Salakovac, the last registrations were conducted in June 2020. UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities to ensure that all those wishing to apply for asylum are able to do so.

For the 11 asylum claims registered in January, the average waiting time was 83 days. However, for those in private accommodation, the average time waiting to register a claim was 27 days compared with the 4 claims registered from TRC Ušivak where the average waiting time was 182 days.



\*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.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	1,572	785	244	12
Recognized refugee**	0	3	1	0
Subsidiary protection**	16	41	31	0
Rejected applications**	45	35	56	2
Suspensions**	741	1,059	546	7

\*Decisions are not necessarily binding and closed



Asylum system in BiH was discussed at a meeting of with Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees from the Council of Europe, Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek.

#### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR IN JANUARY

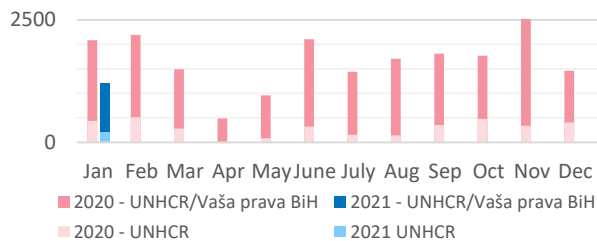
- 1,218 potential asylum-seekers provided with legal counselling by UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH with support from the European Union (IcSP and IPA III projects)
- 417 other protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (informal education, health related assistance, occupational/recreational activities) with the support from USA.

677 core protection assistances provided by UNHCR/BHWI to asylum-seekers (psychosocial assistance, protection assistance for UASCs, SGBV activities) with the support from USA.

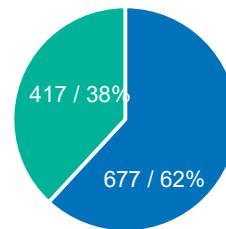
Since 1 June 2020, UNHCR senior protection liaison assistants provided information on access to BiH asylum system to 1,882 persons while their activities are funded by the European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.

#### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR 2020-2021

##### PROVISION OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND AID



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



- Core protection assistance
- Other protection assistance



UNHCR/Vaša Prava BiH lawyer providing legal counseling to prospect asylum-seeker in TRC Sedra



UNHCR/BHWI social worker talking to displaced women in TRC Ušivak, providing needed psychosocial aid as well as identifying individual needs of women seeking safety in the country.

#### NEWS IN JANUARY

- In January, UNHCR with its partners successfully assisted a Yemeni family during a reunification process when the mother and her four underage sons were reunited with the father in the Netherlands. [More.](#)
- 15 January, After her visit to Lipa, UNHCR Representative noted that that life-saving solutions are being put in place at the site and the situation there is becoming more manageable. However, much more needs to be done. [More.](#)
- 28 January, UNHCR Representative in BiH, Lucie Gagné met with the CoE Special Representative Drahoslav Štefánek to discuss the current mixed-movement situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [More.](#)
- 28 January, UNHCR warns European states that asylum is under attack at Europe's borders, urges end to pushbacks and violence against refugees. [More.](#)

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