Bosnia and Herzegovina

516 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived irregularly in BiH in January, representing a 54% increase over December 2021, and a 23% decrease compared to January 2021. 85,669 arrivals have been recorded since the start of the mixed movement in January 2018.

383 persons (74%) arriving in January expressed an intention to seek asylum with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA). The majority declared to be from Afghanistan (30%), Pakistan (13%) and Cuba (8%).

4 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews were conducted in January, all of them in UNHCR’s Information Centre.

3 decisions* were issued in January: 1 granting subsidiary protection and 2 negative decisions. 29 asylum applications were otherwise closed (18 cases involving 29 persons suspended).

7 asylum claims were registered with the Sector for Asylum in January, all were conducted in UNHCR’s Information Centre in Sarajevo.

3 recognized refugees naturalized in January.

154 days - the length of the asylum procedure for first-instance decisions** issued in January.

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

2,181 asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of January, while 400 persons are estimated to be squatting outside of formal accommodation, mostly in Una-Sana Canton.

46% of asylum claim registrations scheduled in UNHCR’s Info Centre for January were conducted.

KEY INDICATORS AS OF END OF JANUARY 2022

- 153 registered asylum-seekers pending processing and decision, of which 46% (70 people) involved persons in families
- 41 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
- 98 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 JANUARY – TOTAL: 153

ASYLUM-CLAIM REGISTRATIONS AND DECISIONS IN JANUARY 2022

REGISTRATIONS PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

- Cuba
- Turkey
- Iraq
- Afghanistan

DECISIONS* PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)

- Morocco
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Kuwait
- India
- Turkey
- Pakistan
- Afghanistan

* Decisions are not necessarily final and binding
AFGHANIS IN FOCUS
Throughout 2021, persons from Afghanistan represented the largest nationality in the mixed movement, with 5,598 recorded arrivals (34% overall). Despite the likely international protection needs of this group, the vast majority did not wish to remain in BiH, instead preferring to apply for asylum in Western Europe. Still, for the small number of persons from Afghanistan seeking asylum in BiH, difficulties in accessing the procedure and lengthy processing times continue to be key challenges. To date, no Afghan has been granted refugee status or Subsidiary Protection in BiH, and since the Taliban takeover in August 2021 and ensuing humanitarian crisis, not a single Afghan has had an RSD interview and no decisions have been issued, despite the fact that at the end of January 2022, 13 cases were pending RSD interviews, some of which for longer than one year, and on average for 158 days.

REGISTRATIONS IN 2021: Top 5 Country of Origin

AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE 2018-2022

For the one decision issued in 2021 involving an Afghan, the process took three years (1,090 days) from the initial expression of intention to seek asylum to the issuance of a final negative decision on appeal.

Length of Procedure for one decision issued in 2021

ASYLUM PROCESSING ACTIVITIES DURING 2018-2022

PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN BIH: Country of origin

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