

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

3,736 persons arrived irregularly in July, which is 107 per cent more compared with the previous month.¹

Top three declared countries of origin are the Syrian Arab Republic (35%), Afghanistan (29%) and Morocco (8%).¹

91% of them were issued an “Attestation on Intention to Seek Asylum” (AISA).¹

1,957 asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants were accommodated in reception facilities at the end of the month.

The Sector for Asylum of the Ministry of Security (MoS) registered the asylum claims of **16** persons and conducted **4** Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews.

2 decisions were issued, one granting subsidiary protection and one negative. Three applications were suspended / terminated.²

SELECTED POPULATION DATA (AS OF END JULY)

44 persons represented by UNHCR/Vaša prava BiH waiting for the registration of their asylum claim

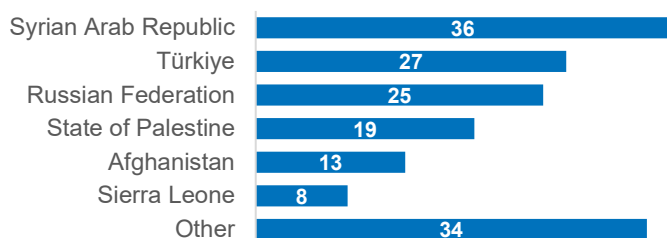
162 asylum-seekers with claims pending processing and final decision

227 persons under international protection (**45** with refugee status and **182** under subsidiary protection)

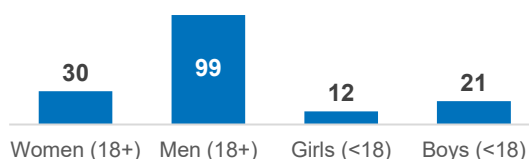
18 stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness

ASYLUM-SEEKERS (AS OF END JULY)

TOP-SIX COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



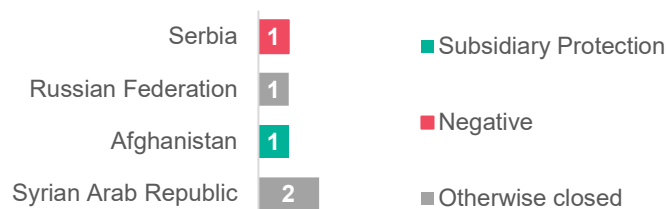
AGE AND GENDER



Of **33** children, **9** are unaccompanied or separated

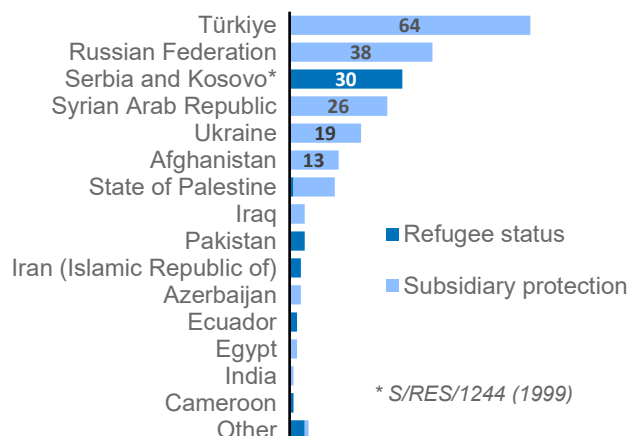
DECISIONS² IN JULY

PER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ALL INSTANCES)



PERSONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (AS OF END JULY)

TOP-15 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



* S/RES/1244 (1999)

¹ Data based on weekly statistics from the Ministry of Security.

² Decisions not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of persons covered by decisions.

ASYLUM-SEEKERS & REFUGEES FACING ISSUES TO ACCESS HEALTHCARE

As per the Law on Asylum, asylum-seekers have the right to free-of-charge primary healthcare on the entire territory of BiH. However, in practice, access to primary healthcare has to be formalized through an agreement between the Ministry of Security (MoS) and Public Institution Health Centres. Currently, there is only one agreement signed between the MoS and the Public Institution Health Centre of the Sarajevo Canton, which restricts access to this right to residents of the Asylum Centre Delijaš only. Asylum-seekers residing in private accommodation in Sarajevo or elsewhere are unable to access basic healthcare near their places of residence. Alternatively, they have to cover the costs of private medical services on their own. Considering that all asylum-seekers should have unhindered access to primary healthcare, irrespective of their place of residence, UNHCR calls for the MoS to adopt agreements with public health centres in all cantons hosting asylum-seekers, such as the Una-Sana and Herzegovina-Neretva cantons, and to revise the agreement with the Sarajevo Canton so that the access is not limited exclusively to residents of the Asylum Centre Delijaš.

Regarding persons under international protection, the BiH legal framework grants them access to health care and social welfare benefits under the same conditions as nationals of BiH. Yet, waiting times to receive health insurance are excessive, leaving persons under international protection without healthcare in the meantime, which can take months. UNHCR calls for the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees to expedite the procedure, which could be done through improved communication between the relevant institutions involved in this process, such as the MoS, the institute for health insurance and the tax office.

UKRAINIANS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 24/02/2022 & STAYED IN BIH: 245 PERSONS (AT THE END OF JULY)

18 persons under subsidiary protection

4 asylum-seekers waiting for interview or final decision

223 persons applied for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, which allows to stay up to six months, but without rights (besides residency)

ASYLUM OVERVIEW (2022 – 2024)

	2022	2023	2024
Applications	149	147	127
Refugee status ²	0	4	2
Subsidiary protection status ²	46	63	47
Rejected applications ²	26	9	8
Procedure terminated ²	162	41	17

² Decisions not necessarily final and binding. Figures refer to the number of persons covered by decisions.

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME: 294 DAYS

Average time from AISA issuance to first-instance decision, for decisions issued during the last six months, excluding those registered in detention.



ASYLUM PROCESSING BACKLOG

78 DAYS

Average waiting time between AISA issuance and registration, excluding detention cases. This waiting time covers claims registered in the last six month. It has increased compared with the previous six months period, when it averaged 45 days.

255 DAYS

Over 40% of asylum-seekers pending RSD interview have been waiting for more than six months (255 days in average). These cases should be processed timely, as per the Law on Asylum, waiting time from registration to decision should be up to six months, and exceptionally up to 18 months.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN JULY

Data provided based on information available to date.

- **373** persons provided with legal information on asylum in BiH through individual and group counselling
- **72** persons assisted with free legal aid in asylum-related cases
- **119** persons assisted with psychosocial support
- **109** sessions in social/recreational and occupational therapy activities
- After months of cultivating a strong partnership with the public employment services, UNHCR's integration partner the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) facilitated the employment of four persons under international protection (from Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye), of which three in July, through the government employment vouchers' scheme. CRS provided job counselling, administrative liaison, identified job opportunities, prepared applicants for interviews, etc. All those factors, combined with soft skills development, helped the applicants to perform better in recruitment processes.



Performance of "radio live VIVANTES" featuring the exile stories of women from BiH, Syria and Ukraine @UNHCR



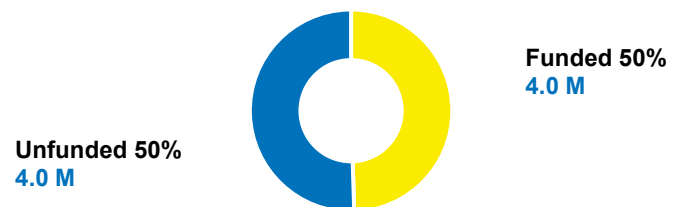
Syrian woman under subsidiary protection signing a small business grant that will support her opening a restaurant @UNHCR/CRS

NEWS & EVENTS

- UNHCR partnered with the French Institute in BiH to support the theatre show "radio live VIVANTES", which took place on 13 July in Sarajevo. Three women – from BiH, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine – shared on stage their intimate stories of war, exile, resilience and hope. The event was part of the WARM Festival's programme, dedicated to commemorating contemporary world conflicts through art.
- On 23 July, focus group discussions were held with 13 persons under international protection in BiH on socio-economic empowerment, employment opportunities, but also on challenges related to integration in the workforce. This initiative, jointly organized with CRS, allowed to better understand the experiences and daily obstacles faced by refugees in integrating the workforce in the country. Focus was also put on the factors that help maintain employment and boost self-reliance.

FUNDING UPDATE

Financial requirements: **USD 8.0 million**



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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.

UNHCR BiH is grateful to the donors to its 2024 programme.
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