

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

February 2022

Overall, **15,740** asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants arrived in BiH in 2021, a 3 per cent decrease from the 16,150 arrivals in 2020 and 46 per cent decrease from the 29,196 arrivals in 2019.

UNHCR helps enhance the capacity of the authorities to **identify people in need of international protection** at an early stage and refer them to asylum and other procedures.

In line with the Global Refugee Forum pledge to **enhance integration** as a solution, UNHCR works with authorities and partners to **secure integration prospects** for persons of concern.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Persons under international protection	416
Asylum-seekers	177
Internally displaced persons	96,305
Stateless persons	149
Others of concern	3,516
Total population of concern	100,563

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Croatia 312	Turkey 35
Serbia and Kosovo** 51	Afghanistan 29
Syrian Arab Republic 25	Pakistan 27

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

**All designations of Kosovo are without prejudice to positions on status and are in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Communication with Communities: UNHCR and its partners support two-way information exchange through information leaflets, the [HELP](#) website, peer-to-peer education sessions and focus group discussions. UNHCR also launched WhatsApp groups where persons of concern can ask cultural mediators questions about COVID-19 and other matters.

Direct assistance: UNHCR directly supports vulnerable persons with protection-sensitive accommodation, food and hygiene parcels and ICT equipment for online schooling. In September 2021, UNHCR also provided personal protective equipment for the new Lipa temporary reception centre.

Inclusion: In September-October 2021, UNHCR assisted 15 persons of concern in receiving COVID-19 vaccination.

HIGHLIGHTS

162 asylum claims pending decision

as of end December 2021. Average processing time was 444 days for first-instance decisions issued in 2021

57 persons awaiting registration

of their asylum claim as of end December 2021

167 asylum claims registered

in 2021, a 32 per cent and 79 per cent decrease compared to 2020 and 2019, respectively

Statelessness

UNHCR and partners have resolved 827 cases of persons at risk of statelessness since the start of the #iBelong campaign in 2014, including 30 cases in 2021. Since the beginning of a joint programme with Vaša Prava BiH, 1,814 persons were assisted with confirmation of their nationality.

ADEL FINDS A NEW HOME IN BIH



After fleeing Iran and arriving in BiH in December 2018, Adel used his skills as an agronomist to start a business and build a life in BiH. He is learning the language and his son is going to school. In December 2021, he received refugee status. [See his video here.](#)

Key Priorities

- **Access to asylum:** UNHCR works to improve access to asylum and enhance capacities of the authorities to effectively identify, profile and refer persons in need of international protection to the asylum authorities.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR builds the capacities of the Ministry of Security (MoS) to conduct registrations and RSD interviews. In September and October 2021, BiH authorities participated in a study visit to Italy to exchange experiences and best practices.
- **Internally displaced persons:** UNHCR remains engaged in supporting realization of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement. UNHCR and its partner Vaša Prava BiH provide legal support for strategic cases.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR organizes trainings for media and implements community projects to enhance social cohesion by promoting interactions between persons of concern and local communities.
- **Solutions:** In support of BiH's Global Refugee Forum pledges, UNHCR assists the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) to enhance durable solutions for refugees, persons granted subsidiary protection, and beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme.
- UNHCR supports free legal aid, psychosocial support, community-based protection and protection mainstreaming and monitoring, inside and outside reception centres in partnership with BiH Women's Initiatives and Vaša Prava BiH. These partnerships ensure the provision of protection services during the asylum process. UNHCR also works with the INGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to promote the integration of refugees and persons granted international protection.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works to improve protection for persons of concern by stimulating public awareness and donor interest and contributes to messaging on human rights and fighting xenophobia with the UN Country Team and other actors, including the EU, aimed at improving the asylum system and access to rights for persons of concern. UNHCR provides complementarity of actions with the European Union Agency for Asylum to ensure coordination of key actors and systematic respect of procedural guarantees for asylum-seekers and consistent implementation of the legislation.

Statelessness

- UNHCR and Vaša Prava BiH provide free legal aid to persons at risk of statelessness and stateless persons and advocate for legislative and policy changes to solve existing cases and prevent further risk of statelessness.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the MoS, the MHRR and the judiciary on asylum, international protection and integration. UNHCR supports the Service for Foreigners' Affairs to enhance its first-line response capacity to collect quality information and identify persons with international protection needs or vulnerabilities.

UNHCR Presence in BiH

Staff:

25 National Staff
5 International Staff
5 Affiliated Staff
1 IUNV
1 JPO
3 Interns

Offices:

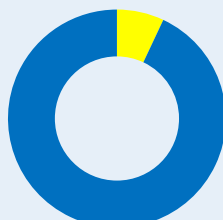
1 Country Office in Sarajevo
1 Field Unit in Bihac
1 Field Unit in Tuzla

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 10.3 M

Funding gap
93%
9.6 M



Funded
7%
0.7 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

UNHCR Bosnia and Herzegovina is grateful to the donors to its 2022 programme:

Austria | European Union