EUROPE SITUATIONS: DATA AND TRENDS

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Regional Bureau for Europe | March 2024

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

MARCH 2024

41,600 estimated arrivals via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes

584 estimated dead or missing at sea

(Cumulative figures[1] from 1 January to 31 March 2024)

UKRAINE

Almost **6 million** refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe, at the end of March 2024, while **3.7 million** people were internally displaced at the end of December 2024[7]

TÜRKIYE

Syrians under temporary protection	**3.3 million**
Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection	**300,000**

For more information, please see Türkiye Fact-sheet, February 2024

NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTE[2]

13,297 sea arrivals, no arrivals by land
119 dead or missing

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[3]

3,278 arrivals, of which 131 by land
102 dead or missing

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[4]

11,484 sea arrivals, no arrivals by land
338 dead or missing

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[5]

13,534 arrivals, of which 1,189 by land
25 dead or missing

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[6]

2,900 people arrived in or transited through the subregion

Includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]). The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

UKRAINE SITUATION

The war in Ukraine triggered a major increase in humanitarian needs due to mass internal displacement and refugee outflows. At the end of March 2024, 5,930,400 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, with 5,635,000 registered for asylum, temporary protection or similar national protection schemes. As of the end of December 2023, 3.7 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine.[7]

While much has been done to ensure that those fleeing the war can meet basic needs and access accommodation, healthcare, education, social assistance, and employment, refugee households from Ukraine continue to face significant economic vulnerability.

Ukraine situation key figures as of 31 March

5,930,400
Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

541,200
Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

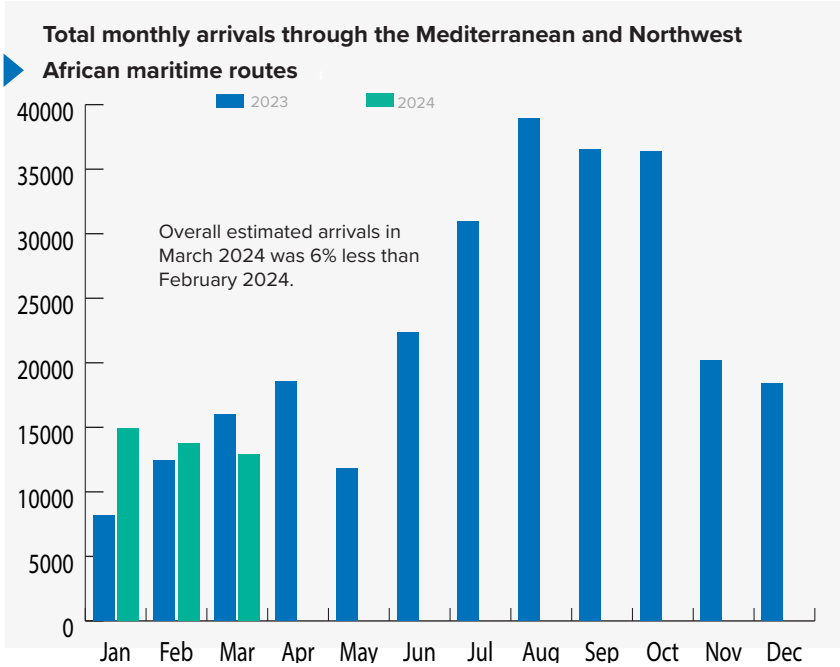
6,471,600
Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

For more information, please visit the Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation

A recently published Inter-Agency report by UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women, titled "Helping Hands - The Role of Housing Support and Employment Facilitation in Economic Vulnerability of Refugees from Ukraine" found that half of refugee households in countries surveyed live below the poverty line based on reported income, and, while their labor force participation is almost on par with nationals (56%), their unemployment rate is 4.5 times as high (14%). The report also highlighted that factoring in accommodation support (provided either via host governments, local homeowners, or other arrangements) as an indirect source of income, reduces the poverty rate to 32%, which demonstrates the critical importance of such interventions.

ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

In March 2024, 12,900 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime route. This amounted to a 6 per cent decrease compared to last month, and a 19 per cent decrease compared to March 2023.



In March, arrivals to Italy increased by 198 per cent when compared to the previous month, but decreased by 48 per cent compared to March 2023. Out of 6,900 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in March, 62 per cent departed from Libya and 38 per cent from Tunisia. Most refugees and migrants originated from Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic and Guinea.

In March 2024, 2,415 refugees and migrants who departed from Libya were intercepted, or rescued, by Libyan authorities and disembarked in Libya. This amounted to a 120 per cent increase compared to the prior month. Most people departing from Libya in March were from Bangladesh, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In Spain, 2,300 refugees and migrants arrived over March 2024, a 63 per cent decrease compared to the previous month but a 95 per cent increase compared to March 2023. Of all arrivals in March, 50 per cent landed in the Canary Islands. In March, arrivals in Spain through the Northwest African maritime route decreased by 77 per cent, and by 11 per cent through the Western Mediterranean route compared to last month.

In March 2,600 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea, a 39 per cent decrease compared to last month, but a 102 per cent increase compared to March 2023. Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting 3,058 refugees and migrants at sea in March a 50 per cent decrease compared to the previous month. Further, 1,208 refugees and migrants arrived in Cyprus in March, a 22 per cent increase compared to the previous month and a 361 per cent increase compared to March 2023.

According to data on arrivals during the first quarter 2024 the majority of refugees and migrants through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime route were from Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic and from Afghanistan.

For more information, please visit https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[9]

In March 2024, 750 people arrived in, or transited through, the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. As such, movements in March were 11 per cent fewer than the previous month and 62 per cent fewer compared to the same period in 2023.

Some 3,900 forcibly displaced and stateless people were present in the Western Balkans as of end March 2024, including 227 unaccompanied and separated children.

In March 2024, 125 people submitted asylum applications, nearly equal to the previous month (124). Meanwhile, 106 first-instance decisions were issued in March, 18 subsidiary protection status were granted, while 16 applications were rejected and 72 were closed.

As of the end of March, 611 asylum applications were still pending a decision across the subregion.

For more information, please visit http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southeasterneurope

[1] Dead and missing figures refer to the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes. Information is compiled from a variety of sources, the quality and reliability of which can vary. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures on some arrivals, as well as dead and missing at sea, represent an estimate.Triangulation of information and sources is performed on a continuous basis. Therefore, amendments in figures may occur, including retroactively.
[2] Includes sea arrivals in the Canary Islands (Spain) via the Atlantic Ocean.
[3] Includes sea and land arrivals in Spain via the Western Mediterranean route.
[4] Includes sea arrivals in Italy and Malta.
[5] Includes sea and land arrivals in Greece and sea arrivals in Cyprus.
[6] Majority of the persons arriving in the Western Balkan region are part of the secondary movement, those who have already arrived in Greece or Bulgaria and then transited through the region with the intention to move onward to other EU countries.
[7] IOM General Population Survey, December 2024.
[8] In preparation for UNHCR's Annual Statistical Review 2023, and publication of our Global Trends Report in June 2023, a thorough review of all statistics related to refugees from Ukraine is being undertaken (for details please refer to Ukraine Refugee Situation - Data Explanatory Note).
[9] Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).