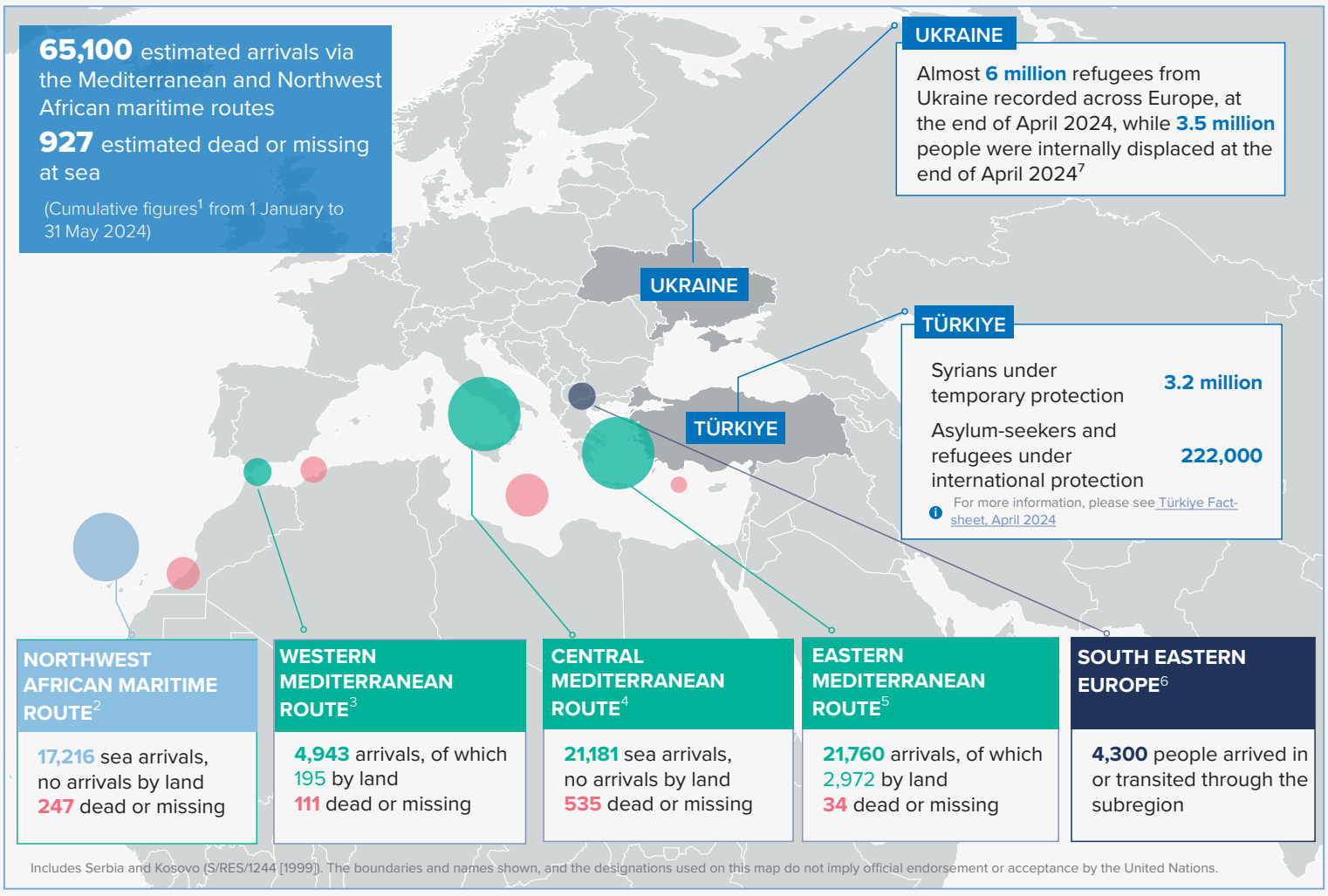
EUROPE SITUATIONS: DATA AND TRENDS

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Regional Bureau for Europe | May I 2024

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

MAY 2024



UKRAINE SITUATION

The war in Ukraine triggered a major increase in humanitarian needs due the mass internal displacement within Ukraine as well as refugee outflows. By the end of May 2024, 5,996,500 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, with 6,059,400 registered for asylum, temporary protection or similar national protection schemes. As of the end of April 2024, 3.5 million people were displaced internally within Ukraine.[7]

Ukraine situation key figures as of 31 May

5,996,500
Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

558,300
Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

6,554,800
Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

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

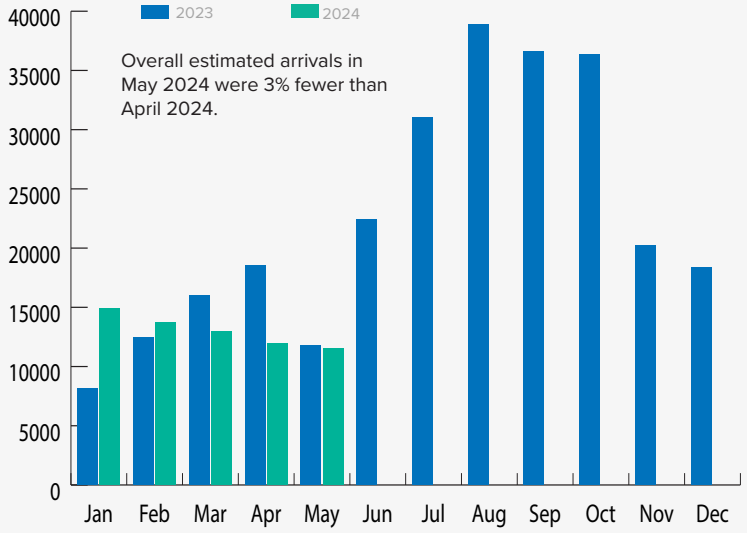
UNHCR released the fourth regional protection monitoring report on the Ukraine situation, based on 10,470 interviews conducted with refugees from Ukraine across 11 countries. The report highlights key obstacles refugees face in host countries, notably limited access to identity and civil status documents, risks of labour exploitation, and challenges accessing rights in host countries upon return from short visits to Ukraine. Findings underline an increasing demand for information on access to legal status in host countries.

ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

In May 2024, 11,500 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime route. This amounted to a three per cent decrease compared to last month, and a two per cent decrease compared to May 2023.

In May, arrivals to Italy increased by five per cent compared to the previous month while decreasing by 39 per cent compared to May 2023. Of the 5,000 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in May, 52 per cent departed from Libya and 38 per cent from Tunisia. Most refugees and migrants originated from Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

Total monthly arrivals through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes



In May 2024, 1,700 refugees and migrants who departed from Libya were intercepted, or rescued, by Libyan authorities and disembarked in Libya. This amounted to a 70 per cent increase compared to the prior month. The majority of those departing from Libya in May were from Bangladesh, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In Spain, 2,000 refugees and migrants arrived over May 2024, a 43 per decrease compared to the previous month, but a 13 per cent increase compared to May 2023. Of all arrivals in May, 56 per cent landed in the Canary Islands. In May, arrivals in Spain through the Northwest African maritime route decreased by 59 per cent but increased by 15 per cent through the Western Mediterranean route when compared to last month.

In May 4,300 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea, a 70 per cent increase compared to last month, and more than 200 per cent when compared to May 2023. Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting 3,700 refugees and migrants at sea in May, an 18 per cent increase compared to the previous month. Further, 200 refugees and migrants arrived in Cyprus in May, an 82 per cent decrease compared to the previous month and a 61 per cent decrease, when compared to May 2023.

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

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[8]

In May 2024, 755 people arrived in, or transited through, the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. Resultantly, arrivals were 23 per cent higher than the previous month (613) but 71 per cent lower than in May 2023. Of the overall arrivals so far in 2024, majority were from Afghanistan, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In May 2024, 50 people submitted asylum applications, which was 30 per cent less than the previous month (71). Coincidingly, 52 first-instance decisions were issued in May as well as 10 refugee status and 11 subsidiary protection status decisions. Meanwhile, seven applications were rejected and 24 were closed. As of the end of May 580 asylum applications were still pending a decision across the subregion.

As of the end of May 2024, 2,900 forcibly displaced and stateless people were present in the Western Balkans, including 134 unaccompanied or separated children.

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, April 2024.
[8] Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).