The international armed conflict in Ukraine triggered a severe increase in humanitarian needs, as well mass internal displacement and refugee outflows. As of 31 October 2022, 7,777,421 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, while 4,456,592 refugees from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe. Within Ukraine, some 6.5 million people were internally displaced as of end October.⁷

UNHCR recently shared a report on "Displacement Patterns, Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine", based on more than 34,000 interviews with refugees from Ukraine conducted by UNHCR and partners in Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia between mid-May and end September 2022. Among the findings, accommodation and employment are refugees’ top priority needs. Also, 78% of respondents have been separated from immediate family members, which has exacerbated protection risks and existing vulnerabilities. 24% of households include at least one person at heightened risk. Such households have decreased coping capacities and limited access to support network and self-reliance opportunities.
Between January and October 2022, some 131,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes, a 33% increase compared to the same period in 2021. In October 2022, arrivals were the same as September 2022, but increased by 43% compared to October 2021.

October arrivals in Italy were the same as last month but increased by 90% compared to October 2021. Out of some 13,500 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in October, 40% had departed from Tunisia, 38% from Libya, and 20% from Türkiye. In October, some 5,200 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy from Libya, a 33% increase compared to last month, and some 2,700 from Türkiye, a 42% increase compared to September this year. Some 2,600 refugees and migrants who departed from Libya in October were intercepted or rescued by Libyan authorities and disembarked back in Libya, a 23% increase compared to September. According to available data, most people departing from Libya in 2022 were from Bangladesh, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, and Sudan, while people arriving in Italy from Türkiye originated mainly from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, and Iraq.

Some 4,800 refugees and migrants arrived in Spain in October, a 20% increase compared to last month. Of these, 40% arrived in the Canary Islands. Arrivals in Spain increased through the Canary Islands route by 10% and through the Western Mediterranean route by 28% compared to last month. Between January and October 2022, arrivals in Spain decreased by 18% compared to the same period in 2021.

Some 1,900 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea in October, a 13% decrease compared to last month, but an 89% increase compared to October 2021. This increase in monthly arrivals is in line with seasonal trends and the increased number of vessels leaving from Türkiye and Lebanon in 2022 which were rescued in Greek waters. Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting some 4,800 refugees and migrants at sea in October, a 16% decrease compared to last month. In addition, some 400 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Cyprus this month, a 32% increase compared to last month.

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Some 4,900 persons arrived in or transited through the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements in October 2022. 12% less than last month and 61% more than in October 2021. From January through October 2022, 31,400 people arrived in or transited through the subregion, 20% more than in the same period in 2021. Out of overall arrivals so far in 2022, some 3,200 were Afghans, a 41% decrease compared to the same period last year (some 5,400).

In October, 69 persons submitted an asylum application, a 48% decrease compared to last month (133). Fourteen positive first-instance decisions were issued in October (four refugee status and 10 subsidiary protection status), while seven applications were rejected and 88 were closed, as the applicants were no longer present in the country of application. As of the end of October, 419 asylum applications were still pending decision across the subregion.

So far this year, 99 positive first-instance decisions have been issued across the subregion (19 refugee status and 80 subsidiary protection status), 118 asylum applications have been rejected, and 1,119 asylum applications have been closed after the applicants absconded from the asylum procedure.

For more information, please visit https://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 and land arrivals in Greece and sea arrivals in Cyprus.
5 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.
6 Ukraine Internal Displacement Report IOM, 26, October 2022.
7 Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).
8 Includes sea arrivals in Italy and Malta.
9 Includes sea arrivals in the Canary Islands (Spain) via the Atlantic Ocean.