EUROPE SITUATIONS: DATA AND TRENDS

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Regional Bureau for Europe | May 2023

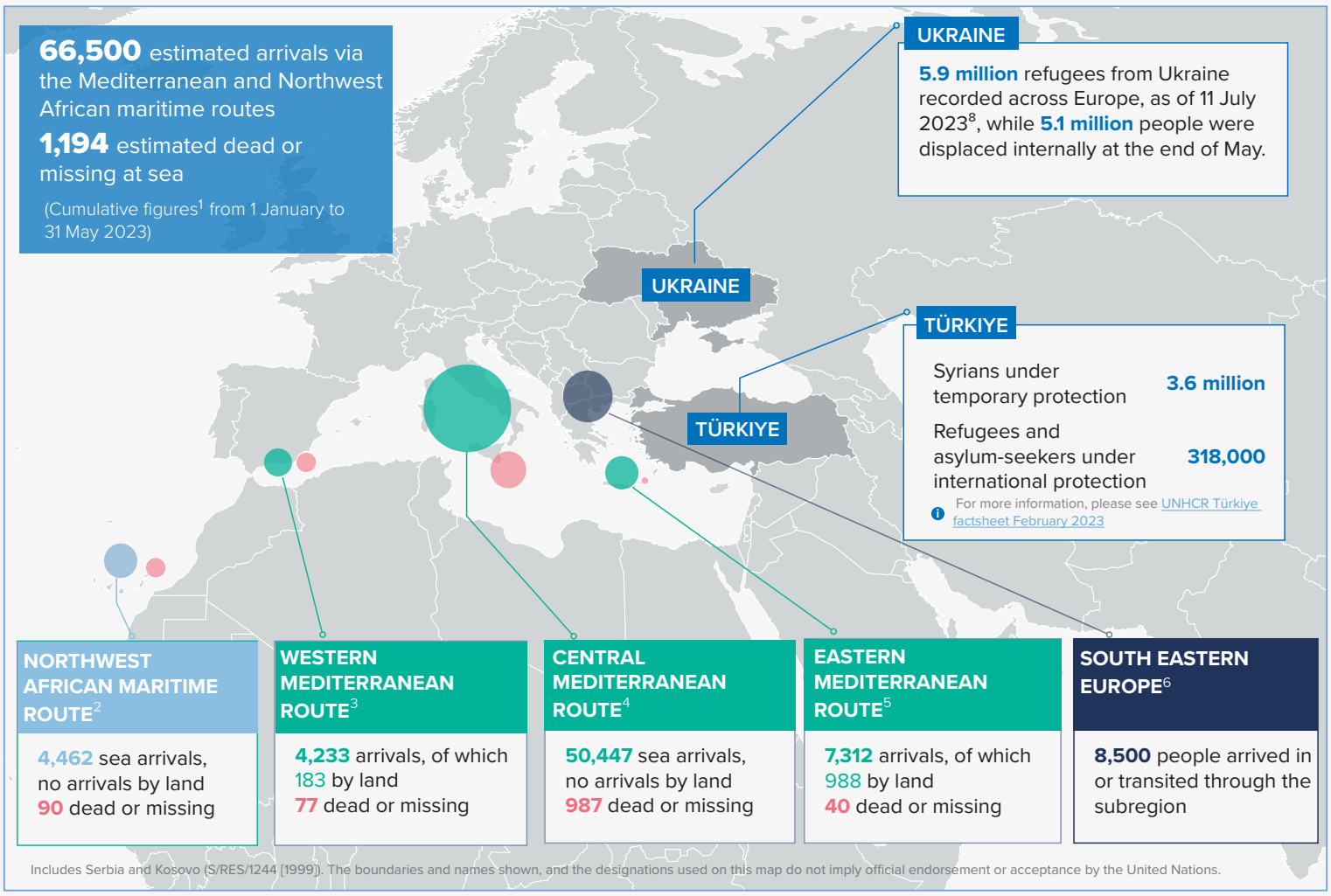
ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

MAY 2023 FIGURES

66,500 estimated arrivals via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes

1,194 estimated dead or missing at sea

(Cumulative figures[1] from 1 January to 31 May 2023)



UKRAINE

5.9 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe, as of 11 July 2023[8], while **5.1 million** people were displaced internally at the end of May.

TÜRKIYE

Syrians under temporary protection	**3.6 million**
Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection	**318,000**

For more information, please see UNHCR Türkiye factsheet February 2023

NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTE[2]

4,462 sea arrivals, no arrivals by land
90 dead or missing

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[3]

4,233 arrivals, of which **183** by land
77 dead or missing

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[4]

50,447 sea arrivals, no arrivals by land
987 dead or missing

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[5]

7,312 arrivals, of which **988** by land
40 dead or missing

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[6]

8,500 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. As of 11 July 2023, 5,976,100 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, with 5,093,200 registered for Asylum, Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes. Within Ukraine, 5.1 million people were internally displaced as of end of May.[7]

In April 2023, UNHCR published its Regional Protection Analysis Report #2, based on interviews with over 17,700 refugees in countries neighboring Ukraine, including Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The report highlighted several challenges faced by refugees regarding access to rights in host countries.

Ukraine situation key figures as of 11 July 2023[8]

5,949,500
Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

353,100
Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

6,302,600
Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

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

Among others, approximately 25 per cent of refugees surveyed reported difficulties in accessing healthcare in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The main barriers to healthcare remained similar to those identified in UNHCR's previous research paper; 'The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive – Six Months On'. Challenges included long wait times due to lack of capacity within the health system, language barriers and high costs.

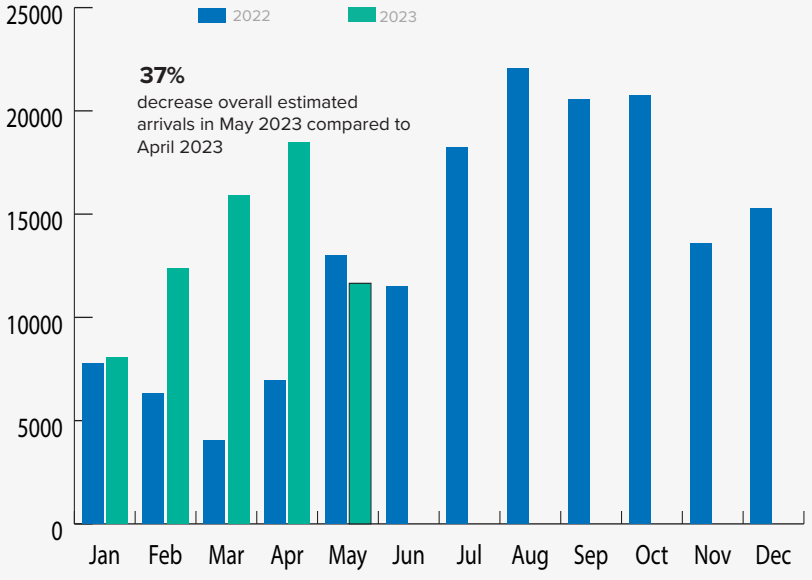
ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

Between January and May 2023, some 66,500 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes, a 74 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. In May, arrivals decreased by 37 per cent compared to previous month, and 10 per cent decrease compared to May 2022.

Total arrivals in Italy decreased by 44 per cent in May, compared to the previous month, and by six per cent compared to May 2022. Of the 8,200 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in May, 72 per cent departed from Libya, and 18 per cent departed from Tunisia. UNHCR also noted 800 arrivals from Türkiye in May.

Overall arrivals from Tunisia from January to May 2023 increased six-fold, and arrivals from Libya doubled compared to the same period last year. Majority of arrivals from Tunisia originated from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Tunisia, whereas majority of arrivals from Libya originated from Egypt, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Total monthly arrivals through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes



In Spain, 1,800 refugees and migrants arrived during May, a 29 per cent decrease compared to the previous month. In May, 68 per cent of arrivals in Spain arrived at the Canary Islands. Arrivals in May decreased by 13 per cent along the Northwest African maritime route, and by 44 per cent along the Western Mediterranean route compared to the previous month.

In Greece, 1,200 refugees and migrants arrived by both land and sea in May, a 26 per cent increase compared to the previous month and an 18 per cent increase compared to May 2022. Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting 3,161 refugees and migrants at sea in May, a 13 per cent increase compared to previous month. Further, 514 refugees and migrants arrived in Cyprus by sea in May, resulting in a 35 per cent increase compared to the previous month.

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

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[9]

In May 2023, 2,600 people arrived in or transited through the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. Arrivals were 38 per cent higher than the previous month and 22 per cent less than in May 2022. From January - May 2023, 8,500 people arrived in or transited through the subregion, 7 per cent less than in the same period in 2022. Out of overall arrivals so far in 2023, some 1,600 were Afghans, a 54 per cent increase compared to the same period last year (some 1,040).

In May 2023, 90 people submitted asylum applications, on par with the previous month. Four positive first-instance decisions were issued in May (three subsidiary protection status and one refugee status), while 13 applications were rejected and 80 were closed, as the applicants were no longer present in the country of application.

As of the end of May, 493 asylum applications were still pending a decision across the subregion. So far this year, 73 positive first-instance decisions were issued across the subregion (27 refugee status and 46 subsidiary protection status), 84 asylum applications were rejected, and 296 asylum applications were closed after applicants did not respond or were no longer present in the country of application.

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] Ukraine Internal Displacement Report, IOM, May 2023.
[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 was undertaken (for details please refer to Ukraine Refugee Situation - Data Explanatory Note), therefore figures reported in this April factsheet have been retroactively updated.
[9] Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).