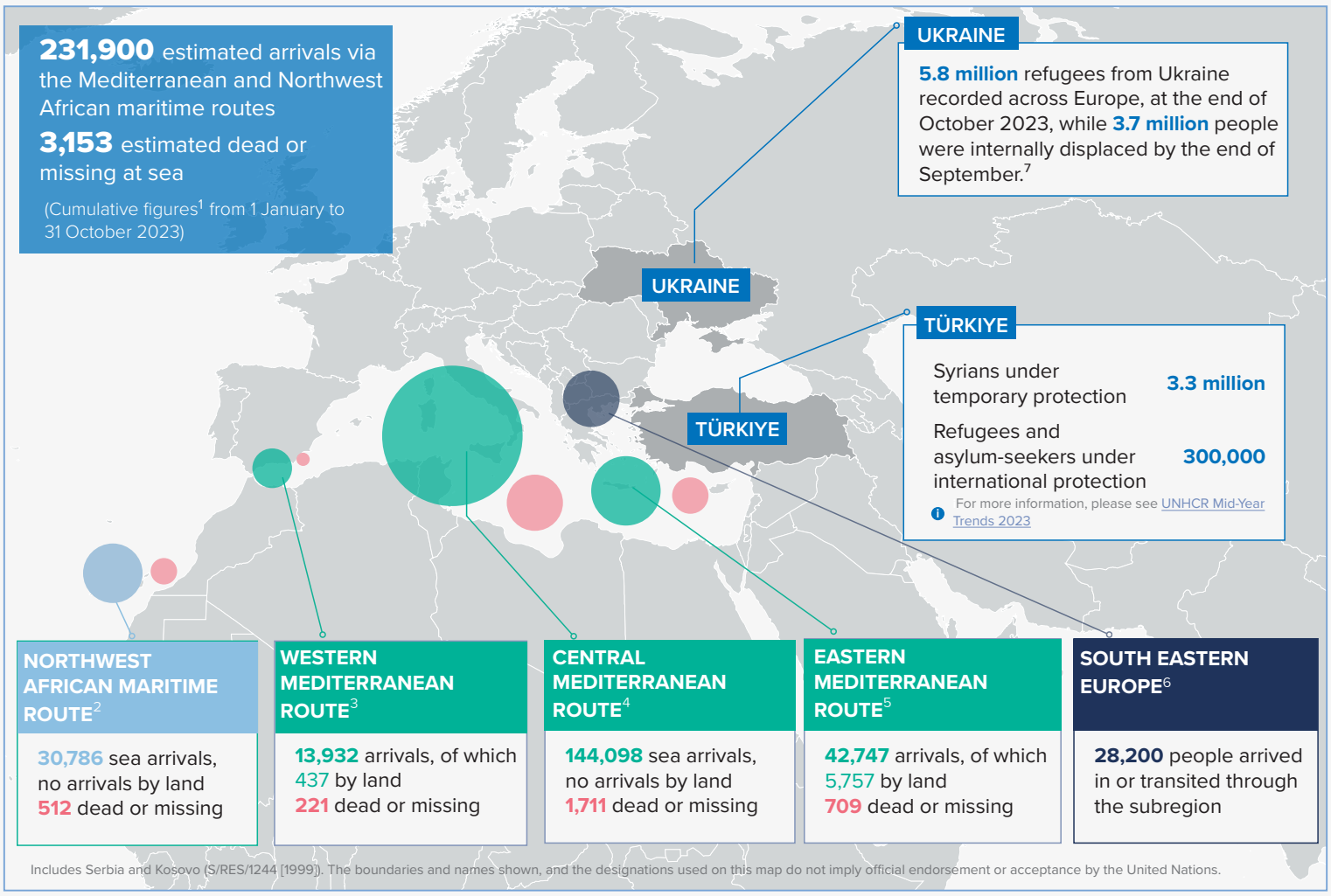
EUROPE SITUATIONS: DATA AND TRENDS

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Regional Bureau for Europe | October 2023

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

OCTOBER 2023 FIGURES



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 31 October 2023, 5,840,000 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, with 5,230,000 registered for Asylum, Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes. As of the end of September, 3.7 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine.[7]

Between January - October 2023, some 910,000 applications for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes were registered in Europe, equivalent to an average of around 91,000 per month. Of those, some 25 per cent applications were recorded in Germany, 23 per cent in Poland and 10 per cent in Czech Republic.

Ukraine situation key figures as of 31 October 2023[8]

5,840,000
Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

392,100
Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

6,232,100
Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

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

The number of refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (stocks) have not changed significantly in recent months, fluctuating between 5.7 and 5.9 million, slightly higher compared to end of 2022. While additional applications for Temporary Protection or asylum have been registered this year, and other countries have also reported new arrivals under other forms of stay, authorities in Europe have also adjusted their stock estimates for different reasons (including de-deduplications and de-activations). Onwards movements outside of Europe have also been observed, with over 392,100 refugees from Ukraine recorded outside of Europe by October 2023, compared to 230,000 by end 2022.

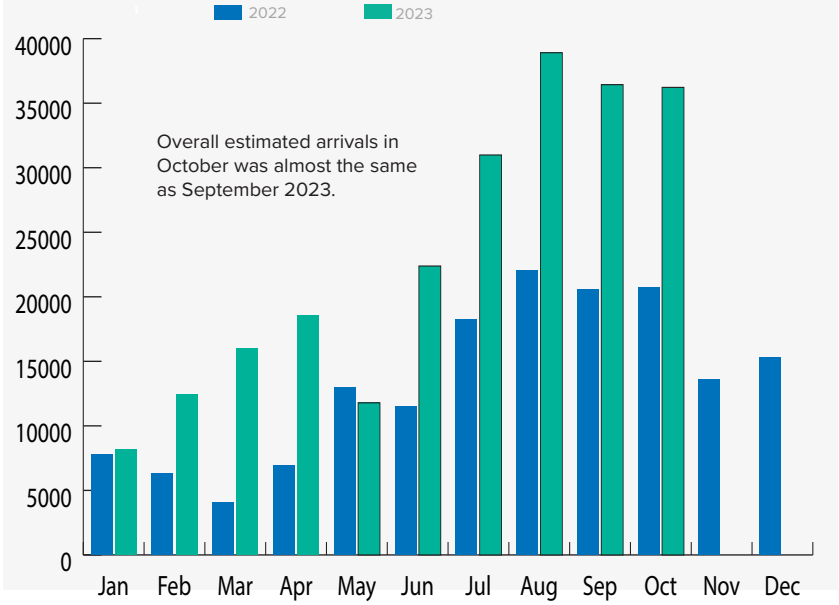
ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

Between January - October 2023, some 231,900 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes. This resulted in a 77 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. Arrivals in October (36,300) are comparable to those recorded in September while increasing by 77 per cent compared to October 2022.

Total arrivals in Italy decreased by 46 per cent in October when compared to the previous month and by 24 per cent compared to October 2022, in line with seasonal trends. Of the 10,300 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy over October, 68 per cent departed from Libya, 19 per cent from Tunisia and 12 per cent from Türkiye.

Total arrivals from Tunisia between January - October 2023 increased by 280 per cent while arrivals from Libya remained similar to the same period last year. Most arrivals from Tunisia originated from Guinea, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, while the majority of arrivals from Libya originated from Egypt, Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic and Pakistan.

Total monthly arrivals through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes



In Spain, some 17,750 refugees and migrants arrived over October, a 253 per cent increase compared to the previous month. Of all arrivals in October, 88 per cent landed on the Canary Islands. Arrivals along the Northwest African maritime route increased by 318 per cent, and by 68 per cent through the Western Mediterranean route in October when compared to the previous month.

In Greece, throughout October, some 7,150 refugees and migrants arrived by both land and sea, representing a 38 per cent decrease compared to the previous month and increased by 300 per cent when compared to the same period last year. Majority of arrivals are from Syria, Palestine and Afghanistan. Border authorities in Türkiye reported rescuing, or intercepting, some 10,700 refugees and migrants at sea throughout October. Further, some 1,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Cyprus by sea in October, a 52 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 October 2023, some 3,400 people arrived in, or transited through, the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. Resultantly, arrivals were 31 per cent less than the previous month and 30 per cent less than in October 2022. Between January - October 2023, some 28,200 people arrived in, or transited through, the subregion, 11 per cent less than in the same period in 2022. Of the overall arrivals so far in 2023, 5,078 were Afghans, a 51 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

In October 2023, 176 people submitted asylum applications, representing a 42 per cent increase compared to the previous month. Additionally, 24 positive first-instance decisions were issued in October (two refugee status and 22 subsidiary protection status), while eight applications were rejected and 158 were closed.

As of the end of October, 508 asylum applications were still pending decisions across the subregion. So far this year, 134 positive first-instance decisions were issued across the subregion (42 refugee status and 92 subsidiary protection status), 139 asylum applications were rejected, and 743 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, September 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).
[9] Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).