

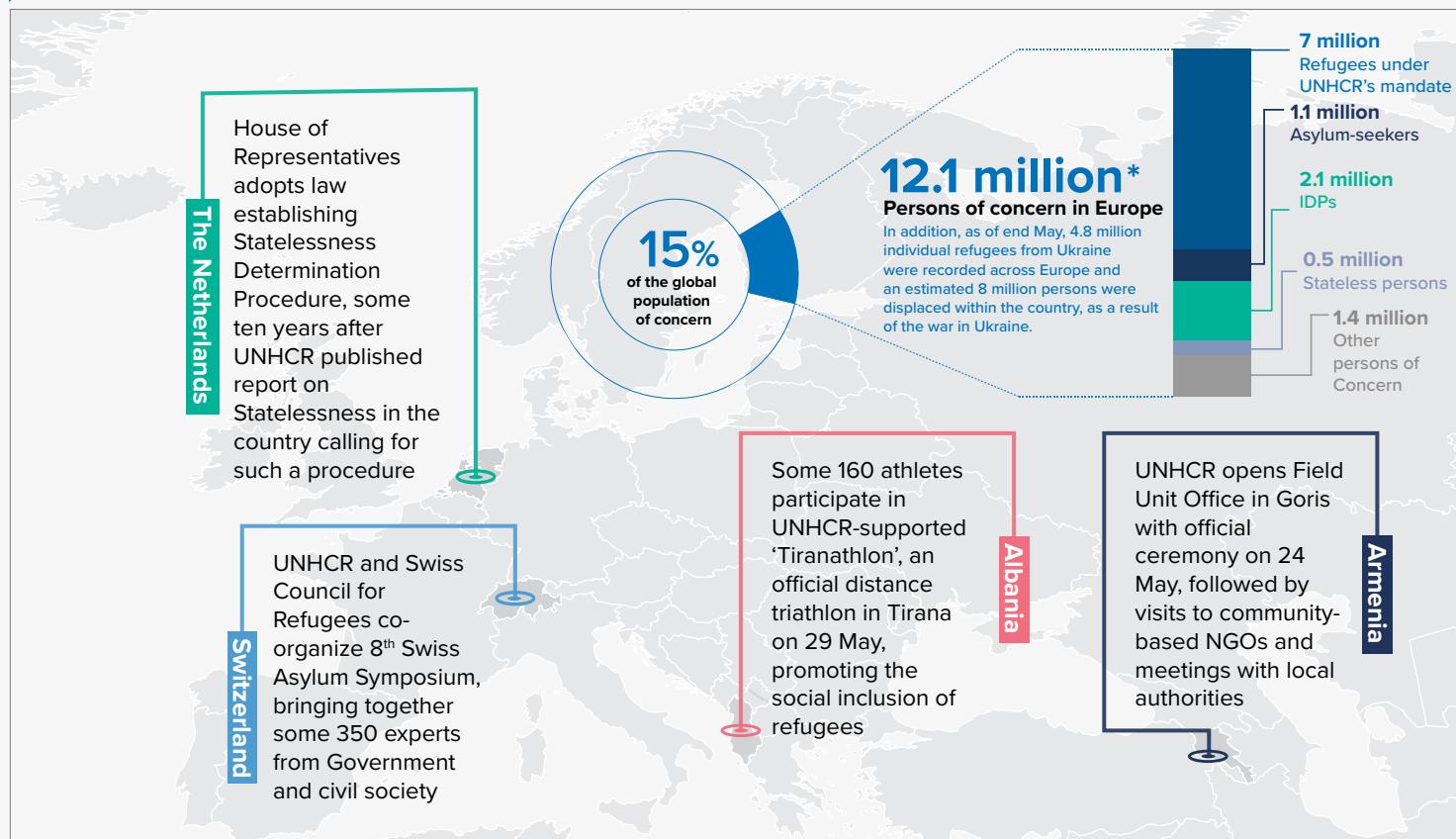
MONTH IN REVIEW

Ukraine Situation: The international armed conflict in Ukraine has led to the largest human displacement crisis in the world today. UNHCR continued scaling up operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, to strengthen protection mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable.

Arrivals and displaced populations: Some 4.8 million individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of end May 2022,¹ while an estimated 7.1 million people were displaced inside Ukraine². In the first five months of 2022, some 38,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes, a 26 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2021.

COVID-19: Authorities in a number of countries further eased COVID-19 movement and travel restrictions in response to declining infections rates. Vaccination of persons of concern to UNHCR progressed in several countries.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Source: UNHCR [Global Trends Report 2021](#) and UNHCR [data finder platform](#). The map 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.

1. [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

2. IOM, [Ukraine Internal Displacement Report](#), 23 May 2022

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

UKRAINE SITUATION

4,781,022 individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of end May 2022, while an estimated 7.1 million persons were displaced inside the country.³

MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

38,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the three Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in the first five months of 2022, a 26 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. In May 2022, arrivals increased by 85 per cent compared to April 2022 and by 37 per cent compared to May 2021.

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

9,040 persons have arrived in or transited through the subregion so far in 2022, 13 per cent fewer than in the same period in 2021. Of these, 3,310 persons arrived in or transited through the subregion in May, 17 per cent more than last month.

TÜRKIYE

Türkiye hosts the world's largest refugee population with over **3.7 million** Syrians under temporary protection and over 322,000 refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection.⁴

3. IOM, [Ukraine Internal Displacement Report](#), 23 May 2022

4. [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **UKRAINE SITUATION:** Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine, nearly one-third of Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes. This is the largest human displacement crisis in the world today. Within Ukraine, some 7.1 million people remain internally displaced by the war.⁵ As of end May, some 4.8 million individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, and over 2.9 million refugees had registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe.⁶ Some 7 million border crossings from Ukraine have been recorded since 24 February, and authorities reported some 2.2 million crossings into the country since 28 February.
- As lead of the inter-agency refugee response, UNHCR continued scaling up its operations in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries, focusing on strengthening protection mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable. In May, UNHCR expanded its cash assistance programmes in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Romania, and commenced enrolment for its cash assistance programme in Slovakia. Jointly with UNICEF, UNHCR rolled-out additional Blue Dot safe spaces providing refugees with critical protection information and services, with 33 established so far in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as of 25 May.
- **European Union (EU):** On 31 May, the European Commission established an EU platform to allow EU Member States (MS) to exchange information on beneficiaries of temporary protection in real time so that people fleeing Ukraine can effectively benefit from their rights in all MS, while addressing instances of multiple registrations and possible abuse. The Commission developed this technical solution as part of the [10 Point Plan for Stronger European Coordination on Welcoming People fleeing from Ukraine](#) agreed at the extraordinary JHA Council on 28 March 2022.
- **Council of Europe (CoE):** The CoE's Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees visited Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland in May, where she met with the authorities, civil society and UNHCR, to explore how the CoE can support these countries receiving refugees from Ukraine. On 20 May, the CoE's Committee of Ministers adopted an [adjusted Action Plan for Ukraine \(2018-2022\)](#) including measures to protect displaced persons, combat violence against women and trafficking, protect vulnerable groups including Roma, and prevent discrimination.
- **ITALY:** Some 8,720 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy in May, 123 per cent more than in April,⁷ placing considerable pressure on disembarkation locations in southern Italy and resulting in overcrowding of the Lampedusa hotspot.⁸ Increased arrivals also put Calabria's ports and reception system under strain. In Lampedusa, UN agencies and NGOs advocated with authorities for prompt action to ensure adequate conditions and assistance, and in Calabria, UNHCR accompanied a Ministry of Interior mission to assess the situation and identify required action and support. UNHCR remains present at disembarkation sites in southern Italy, providing arrivals with information and supporting the authorities in identifying particularly vulnerable persons.



4.8 million individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of end May 2022



33 Blue Dots established jointly by UNHCR and UNICEF in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia as of end May



Increased arrivals place considerable pressure on disembarkation locations in southern Italy



Some **38,000** refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in the first five months of 2022, 26 per cent more than in the same period last year.

5. IOM, [Ukraine Internal Displacement Report](#), 23 May 2022

6. [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

7. [UNHCR Europe Situations: Data and Trends – Arrivals and Displaced Populations, May 2022](#)

8. [UNHCR Italy Fact Sheet, May 2022](#)

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Albania: In partnership with the Greek Embassy and the Municipality of Tirana, UNHCR supported the ‘[Tiranathlon](#)’ sports event on 29 May. Some 160 athletes participated in the triathlon. During the award ceremony, the Mayor of Tirana and representatives of the Greek Embassy highlighted the importance of social inclusion of refugees and thanked UNHCR for the continued partnership. UNHCR supported the event with visibility items showcasing the #WithRefugees campaign.

Armenia: On 24 May, the UNHCR Representative with the UN Resident Coordinator held an [official opening](#) of the UNHCR Field Unit Office in Goris, Syunik province. The Deputy Governor thanked UNHCR for its humanitarian response and community support activities to help meet the needs of families displaced by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and their host communities. Following the ceremony, the UN-UNHCR delegation visited several community-based NGOs implementing UNHCR and UN-funded integration and development projects, and met with local authorities to discuss ongoing joint efforts to promote the self-reliance of displaced people and ensure their social inclusion.

The Netherlands: The House of Representatives adopted the law establishing a Statelessness Determination Procedure in the Netherlands on 31 May. The adoption came following sustained advocacy by UNHCR, including a [report](#) on Statelessness in the Netherlands, calling for the establishment of such a procedure. At the same time, an important amendment to the Nationality Act was also adopted, which now makes it possible for undocumented stateless children to obtain Dutch Nationality after having resided in the Netherlands for five years. UNHCR welcomed the development and posted the news on its [social media channels](#).

Switzerland: UNHCR and the Swiss Refugee Council co-organized the [8th Swiss Asylum Symposium](#) in Bern on 19-20 May, bringing together some 350 experts and representatives from Government and civil society. Main speakers included Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter, State Secretary for Migration Christine Schraner Burgener, as well as representatives from UNHCR and the Council of Europe. Participants discussed the topic of “Access to protection for refugees: Challenges, perspectives, solutions”, with a focus on the international armed conflict in Ukraine and its potential to lead to a paradigm shift in European refugee policy.

COVID-19 SITUATION AND RESPONSE

- **Regional COVID-19 infection rates** declined moderately throughout May 2022, dropping further to levels last seen in October 2021, with some 197,000 cases detected in the Europe and Central Asia region on 1 June, according to the [World Health Organization](#). Authorities in a number of countries further eased COVID-19 movement and travel restrictions in May in light of the downward trend in infections.
- **Vaccination:** Persons of concern to UNHCR are generally included in national vaccination campaigns on par with the general population. Vaccination of people in reception centres continued in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Montenegro**. Vaccination of persons of concern in private accommodations were also reported in **Armenia**.
- **Quarantine measures upon arrival:** Countries registering significant numbers of sea arrivals continued to adjust testing and quarantine measures in response to the evolving epidemiological situation. In **Italy**, while quarantine remains mandatory only upon a positive COVID-19 test on arrival or in case of close contact with a person who tested positive, new sea arrivals must undergo a five-day “COVID-19 surveillance” period. Sea arrivals in Apulia and Calabria observe the surveillance period in onshore facilities, while arrivals in Sicily or the islands are routinely transferred to offshore ferries. Following its reopening on 17 May, the Taranto hotspot has also been used as a facility for the 5-day COVID-19 surveillance. In **Spain**, a five-day COVID-19 quarantine continues to be enforced for new arrivals at reception centres in Ceuta and Melilla, even though no national or local regulations require this. The quarantine area does not comply with minimum health and safety standards and residents are locked in a room 24/7, causing negative psychological effects. UNHCR is advocating at local and national level for elimination of the discriminatory and unjustified systematic deprivation of liberty of new arrivals in these centres.
- **Reception conditions:** Lack of sufficient reception spaces, overcrowding and inadequate facilities in some locations continue to pose challenges. Outbreaks in reception and detention centres remain a concern, and typically result in restrictions of movements for some centre residents, with additional cases detected in centres in at least two countries in May (**Austria** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina**).

EUROPE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY OFFICE TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR Ireland
@UNHCRireland

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, has called on charities and volunteers seeking to help children fleeing Ukraine to work with the Child and Family Agency and national child protection systems to ensure that the best interests of children are fully protected

News Release

unhcr.org
UNHCR statement on protecting children fleeing Ukraine
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has called on charities and volunteers seeking to help children fleeing Ukraine to work with the and national child protection

UNHCR Italia
@UNHCRItalia

Tanti auguri da parte di tutti noi Lino! ❤️

Augura anche tu un buon compleanno a @LinoGuanciaie con una donazione per le famiglie costrette a fuggire dalla guerra in Ucraina. La raccolta fondi nasce da un'idea della Fanpage ufficiale di Lino. Dona ora: bit.ly/Lino-per-UNHCR



UNHCR Ukraine
@UNHCRUkraine

We have reached over 700,000 people inside #Ukraine with critical aid such as cash, shelter materials, food, legal counseling & psychosocial support

The generosity of individual & private donors helps us to continue providing critical aid to people in need across the country



PRESS RELEASES, STATEMENTS

Press Release: UNHCR and TikTok launch campaign in solidarity with refugees from Ukraine and beyond [04 MAY]

Press Release: UNHCR: Ukraine, other conflicts push forcibly displaced total over 100 million for first time [23 MAY]

Briefing Note: UNHCR expands operations in Poland to reach refugees from Ukraine amid rising vulnerabilities [27 MAY]

Le HCR en France
@UNHCRFrance

Félicitations à l'international français Eduardo @Camavinga, qui a remporté hier sa première #ChampionsLeagueFinal avec le #RealMadrid.

Quand on leur donne l'opportunité de réussir, les personnes réfugiées peuvent inspirer en retour des millions de personnes. 🙌



Eduardo Camavinga
Sympathisant du HCR

UNHCR Serbia
@UNHCRSerbia

We are very proud to announce that former refugee, Jonas Kinde, won a second place in half marathon race in 35th @Bgd_maraton. 🏆

His success is an important victory for all @Refugees in their hard battle for basic human rights. 🙌

#RunWithRefugees



LEADER ACCOUNT TWEETS

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa @llosa_gonzalo

Representative for EU Affairs calls for better protection for people fleeing war on Europe Day [09 MAY]

Marin Din Kajdomcaj @MarinKajdomcaj

New cash centre. Over 60,000 refugees supported with cash assistance across Poland [12 MAY]

Karolina L Billing @KarolinaBilling supports

with emergency shelter kits in after houses destroyed in Makariv [14 MAY]

Filippo Grandi @FilippoGrandi High

Commissioner reiterates UNHCR's concerns about the UK-Rwanda deal [19 MAY]

Francesca Bonelli @FraBonelli Moldovan

Government, UN and partners launch Refugee Response Plan in Moldova [27 MAY]

TOP NEWS STORIES

Fox News [01 MAY]

Angelina Jolie makes surprise Ukraine visit, meets children

BBC [04 MAY]

Homes for Ukraine: Housing scheme called danger to refugees

ABC News [19 MAY]

Britain, Rwanda defend asylum-seekers plan at UN agencies

Daily Mail [31 MAY]

Ukraine war boosts Africa's humanitarian emergency: UN official

STORY SPOTLIGHT

Refugees in Iceland pursue education with help from student volunteers

When Sayed Khanoghli fled Afghanistan as a teenager – after having lived through threats, seen dead bodies in the streets and lost several family members – he had never heard about the country in the middle of the North Atlantic Sea. It was the Icelandic volunteers he met during his one year in Greece, that made him consider Iceland as a potential safe new home. “I come from a small village, where we were very close to nature, so I could relate to what they told me about Iceland. A small community living in the middle of wild nature. It sounded like it could be my second home,” says the now 20-year-old Sayed who came to Iceland and was recognized as a refugee in 2018.

For more stories and highlights, please subscribe to our mailing list, using this [link](#).

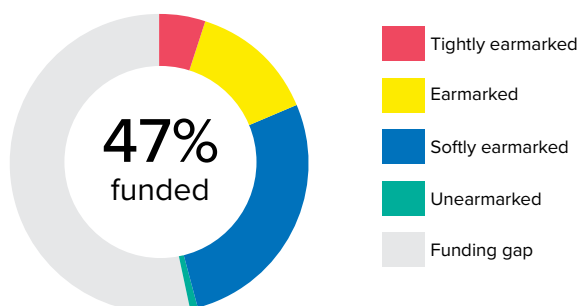


@ UNHCR/Elisabeth Haslund

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Requested for UNHCR’s activities in Europe in 2022:
USD 1.822 billion*

Total contributed or pledged as of 31 May 2022:
USD 851,320,735



*This amount includes the revised supplementary appeal issued in April 2022 for the Ukraine situation.

WHERE TO FIND

For more information, reports and other resources:

- [UNHCR Europe webpage](#)
- [UNHCR Europe country operations fact sheets](#)
- [Europe pages of UNHCR’s Global Focus webpage](#)
- [UNHCR Ukraine Emergency webpage](#)

Operational data portals:

- [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)
- [Mediterranean Situation](#)