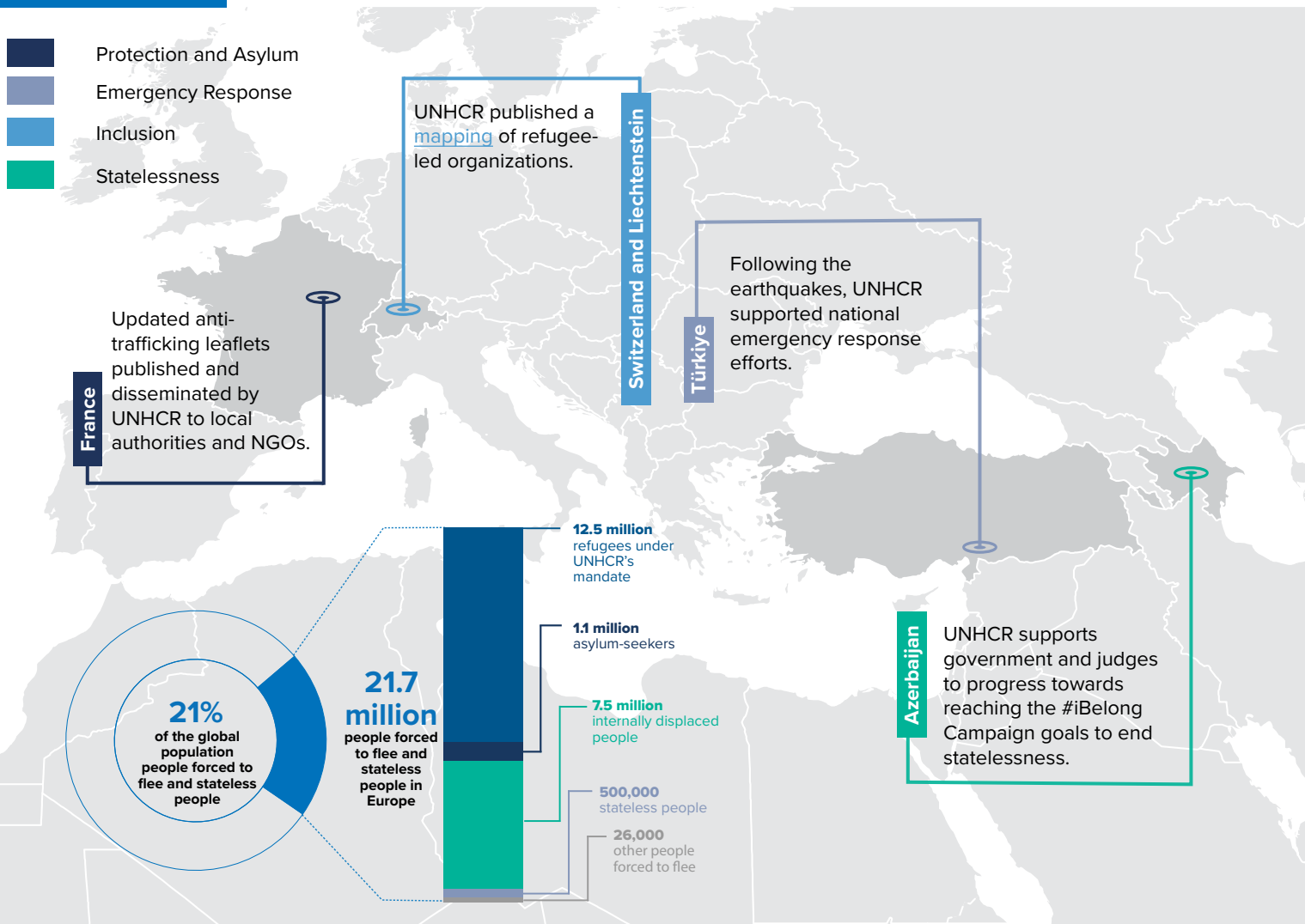


## SPOTLIGHT

- Protection and Asylum
- Emergency Response
- Inclusion
- Statelessness



Source: UNHCR [data finder platform](#) and mid-year statistics data as of 30 June 2022.

References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 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.

## ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

### UKRAINE SITUATION

**8,105,809** individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of end February 2023 and over 4.8 million refugees had registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 5.3 million people were displaced inside Ukraine in January, a net decrease of 600,000 people from the previous month.<sup>2</sup>

### MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

**12,300** refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the three Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in February 2023, a 53 per cent increase compared to the previous month. As of 28 February, 368 people have been reported dead or missing on the three Mediterranean and the Northwest African maritime routes.

### SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

**900** people have arrived in or transited through the subregion in February 2023, 21 per cent less than the previous month and 7 per cent fewer than in February 2022.

### TÜRKIYE

Türkiye hosts the world's largest refugee population with over **3.6 million** Syrians under temporary protection and over 319,000 refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection.

1. [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation as of 28 February 2023](#)

2. [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKIYE

- On 6 February, two earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude impacted eleven provinces in Türkiye, with the epicentres in Kahramanmaraş. Numerous aftershocks undermined rescue efforts. The government declared a three-month state of emergency along with a call for international assistance.
- UNHCR engaged its emergency response mechanisms and delivered much needed items from its global warehouses, including tents, high-thermal blankets, hygiene kits and foldable beds, in coordination with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The UNHCR-chaired inter-agency protection coordination team provided guidance on referral pathways to people with specific needs.
- In line with the [Türkiye Earthquakes UN Flash Appeal](#), UNHCR appealed for USD 150 million to cover the emergency response through an [Earthquake Emergency Supplementary Appeal covering Türkiye and Syria](#).
- More information can be found in the [weekly updates on UNHCR's earthquake response in Türkiye](#).

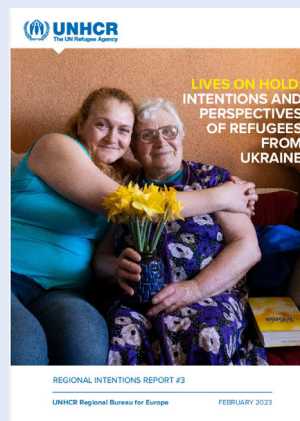
## UKRAINE RESPONSE

- The UNHCR-led inter-agency Ukraine Situation [Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\) for 2023](#) was launched on 15 February. The RRP aims at ensuring refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, including the rights associated with temporary protection or similar legal statuses in host countries. Bringing together 243 partners, the RRP aims to support 4.2 million refugees from Ukraine and host community members in 10 countries in 2023, with a total budgetary requirement of USD 1.7 billion.
- The OCHA-led 2023 Ukraine [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) was [launched](#) at the same event as the RRP. The HRP outlines the coordinated, strategic response devised by humanitarian agencies to meet the acute needs of 11.1 million people in Ukraine through food, cash, health care and other life-saving assistance. The HRP calls for USD 3.9 billion in 2023 to meet humanitarian needs, and brings together more than 650 partners.
- UNHCR's response plan and financial requirements for the Ukraine Situation in 2023 can be found in the [Ukraine Situation: Supplementary Appeal 2023](#). USD 1.1 billion is required to address the needs of war-affected people in Ukraine and in the refugee-hosting neighbouring countries in Europe.



UNHCR published **Lives on hold: Profiles and intentions of internally displaced persons in Ukraine**, with the survey results of 2,900 people interviewed between 5 and 30 December 2022. 12 per cent of internally displaced people (IDPs) planned to permanently return home within three months, while 88 per cent indicated their desire to stay in their current location. Interviewees cited

safety, housing and infrastructure amongst main barriers to return. Amongst those who planned to stay, 7 per cent indicated they no longer hoped to return to their place of origin. [Link](#)



The third regional intentions survey **Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine** provides an in-depth analysis of enabling factors and drivers behind refugees decisions. UNHCR identified that 12 per cent of refugees from Ukraine planned to return to Ukraine within three months, while 65 per cent expressed a

desire to eventually return in the future and 5 per cent indicated no longer hoping to return. Key factors influencing decisions were access to safety and basic services in Ukraine, as well as the level of access to basic services and rights in host countries. [Link](#)

## ASYLUM AND PROTECTION

- **Austria:** Federal authorities have taken up [UNHCR's information brochure for young asylum-seekers](#) in reception facilities, including unaccompanied and separated children, for their use and dissemination. The brochure contains basic facts about the asylum procedure in easily understandable language and was developed by UNHCR, language experts and refugee youth. The printed brochures are bilingual with German alongside Pashtu, Farsi, Arabic and Somali.
- **France:** In February, the UNHCR-led working group on combating human trafficking disseminated [digital leaflets](#) to local authorities and NGOs working in refugee protection. UNHCR coordinated the drafting and the design of two leaflet versions, one for adult and one specifically on prevention of trafficking of children.

## INCLUSION

- **Greece:** UNHCR [presented](#) the “Adama” [job matching platform](#) to 26 private sector companies as well as representatives from the diplomatic community and the government at an event to garner interest and support to further the economic integration of refugees. Refugees shared their experiences of success and challenges as entrepreneurs and employees, while employers and other speakers emphasized the added value of a diverse workforce on productivity, innovation and quality.
- **Italy:** On 15 February, [UNHCR and the Bari Municipality signed a protocol](#) formalising cooperation to facilitate refugee integration through more efficient access to local services. The protocol foresees a multi-functional centre, or Spazio Comune, with support by ActionAid to help refugees obtain administrative documents, as well as finding accommodation and work opportunities. Awareness-raising initiatives for the local community will complement these efforts. The Municipality of Bari, alongside five other Italian Municipalities, is a 2022 signatory of [UNHCR's Integration Charter](#) and has facilitated refugees' social and work inclusion participating in the Community Matching and [Welcome programmes](#).
- **Italy:** As part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the research centre [IDOS](#), UNHCR presented its [Welcome programme](#) at two conferences in [Parma](#) and [Bologna](#) in February, highlighting the activities carried out with an NGO network to facilitate labour inclusion for refugees through skills training. UNHCR underlined how the Welcome programme has also contributed to a change in the narrative related to refugees in the workplace. UNHCR is in the meantime striving to strengthen this NGO network and seeking to establish a “Welcome platform” for job-matching.
- **Switzerland and Liechtenstein:** On 15 February, UNHCR presented [a mapping of refugee-led organizations \(RLOs\) in Switzerland and Liechtenstein](#) to representatives from the federal and local authorities, the civil society and RLOs. Refugees played a prominent role during the event as speakers and moderators. The report underlines the important role RLOs play in refugee integration, which could be amplified with more targeted support and improved funding. Further recommendations and observations are summarised [here](#).

## STATELESSNESS

- **Azerbaijan:** UNHCR is supporting the participation of several judges in the International Institute of Humanitarian Law's specialised course on statelessness this spring, tailor-made for legislators, lawyers and judges. Meanwhile, UNHCR and authorities continued exchanges in the working group on statelessness to continue progress towards meeting Azerbaijan's pledge at the 2019 High-Level Segment (HLS) on naturalising all documented stateless persons in the country by 2023.

# EUROPE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

## COUNTRY OFFICE TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

**ACNUR España** @ACNURSpain

A group of 89 Syrian refugees from Türkiye arrived today at Madrid Torrejón Airport, including families from earthquakes affected areas.

UNHCR @refugees welcomes Spain's expedited resettlement and urges more States to step up and speed up processes for urgent lifesaving support.



UNHCR Türkiye and 3 others

**UNHCR United Kingdom** @UNHCRUK

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is profoundly concerned by the asylum bill introduced by the UK Government to the House of Commons today.

Our statement here: [unhcr.org/uk/news/press/...](https://unhcr.org/uk/news/press/...)  
Tweet 1/2

The legislation, if passed, would amount to an asylum ban – extinguishing the right to seek refugee protection in the United Kingdom for those who arrive irregularly, no matter how genuine and compelling their claim may be, and with no consideration of their individual circumstances.

7:00 PM · Mar 7, 2023 · 1.3M Views

**UNHCR Ukraine** @UNHCRUkraine

Today, we took part in 2 humanitarian convoys to deliver assistance to Zhelanne, #Donetsk oblast & Orikhiv, Zaporizhzhia, both within 20 km from the frontline

More than 6,000 people living in these areas will receive high thermal blankets, sleeping bags, heaters and solar lamps



UNHCR reached Zhelanne with the humanitarian aid

## PRESS RELEASES, STATEMENTS

**Briefing Note [7 FEB]**  
UNHCR teams support emergency response efforts for earthquake survivors in Türkiye and deliver aid in Syria

**News Comment [8 FEB]**  
News Comment: UNHCR's Grandi urges EU leaders to keep supporting refugees in Europe, beyond

**Press Release [15 FEB]**  
UN and partners appeal for US\$5.6 billion to help millions affected by Ukraine war

**Press Release [23 FEB]**  
UNHCR: One year after the Russian invasion, insecurity clouds return intentions of displaced Ukrainians

**UNHCR Italia** @UNHCRItalia

UNHCR expresses deep sorrow at the loss of dozens of lives in a terrible shipwreck off the coast of Italy this morning. EU rescue mechanisms are urgently needed. Read our joint statement with @OIMItalia [unhcr.org/it/notizie-sto...](https://unhcr.org/it/notizie-sto...)

"It is unacceptable to witness such horrors, with families and children entrusted to unseaworthy boats. This tragedy must prompt us to act and act now".

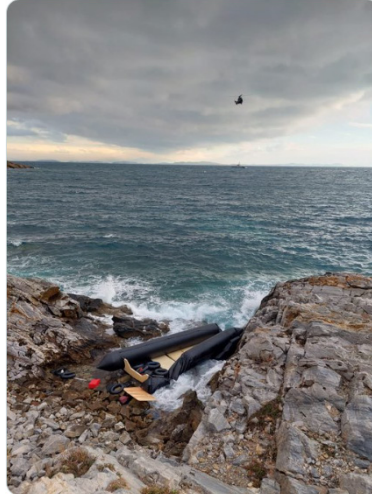
Chiara Cardoletti

2:09 PM · Feb 26, 2023 · 7,500 Views

Another deadly shipwreck off Lesbos.

3 people died, 16 rescued so far. Many feared missing. We appreciate efforts of all involved in the rescue operation, which continues amid strong winds, and stand ready to offer support to survivors.

This senseless loss of life has to stop.



AIMENIKO ΣΩΜΑ

## LEADERSHIP ACCOUNT TWEETS

**Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees:** UNHCR stands in solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria affected by the devastating earthquake and are ready to help provide urgent relief to survivors wherever possible. [6 FEB]

**Enda O'Neill, UNHCR Ireland Head of Office:** The 1951 Refugee Convention prohibits states from penalising refugees for entering a country illegally to seek asylum. [3 FEB]

**Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative in Italy:** Another tragedy leaves 8 people dead after shipwreck off the coast of Lampedusa. UNHCR on the ground to help survivors. [3 FEB]

**Francesca Bonelli, UNHCR Representative in the Republic of Moldova:** Ministry of Interior launches consultations with all the main actors to prepare for implementation of Temporary Protection for Ukrainian refugees [13 FEB].

## TOP NEWS STORIES

**Daily Mail [7 FEB]**  
Millions of vulnerable refugees in Turkey-Syria quake zone.

**Associated Press [10 FEB]**  
First war, now earthquake: Many Syrians displaced again.

**Deutsche Welle [15 FEB]**  
Ukraine updates: UN seeks \$5.6 billion in humanitarian aid.

**Yahoo News [24 FEB]**  
Despite multiple crises in Moldova, Ukrainian refugees find sanctuary.

**CNN [26 FEB]**  
Children and women among 64 dead as migrant boat hits rocks near Italy.

## STORY SPOTLIGHT

Ekaterina was a wedding photographer in Ukraine before she and her son left to Bucharest, in search of safety in 2022. Initially, Ekaterina had planned to travel onwards, but the warm welcome they received in Romania contributed to their staying in the country. She heard about the assistance programmes at RomExpo in Bucharest, a former warehouse that UNHCR repurposed as a welcoming community support centre. Later, she found her new job in the Senaca Anticafé, a bookshop and shared workspace which came with free accommodation nearby.

While Ekaterina and her son dream of returning, for now they feel safe and settled. Working at the café helps Ekaterina rebuild her life, but it is also an opportunity to help others who, have been forced to flee their homes. At the café she is making friends with customers and colleagues alike. [Link](#)



Photo from infant and toddler care training. © METADRASI

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

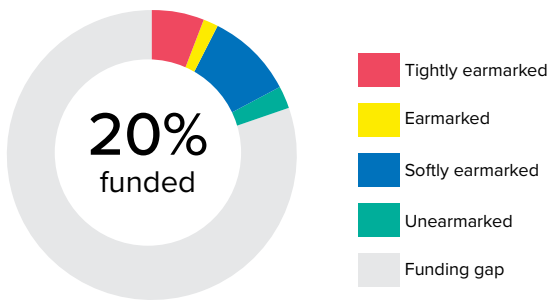
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Requested for UNHCR's activities in Europe in 2023:

**USD 1.694 billion\***

Total contributed as of 28 February:

**USD 341,235,302**



\*This amount includes financial requirements for the Ukraine situation.

## WHERE TO FIND

**For more information, reports and other resources:**

- [UNHCR Europe webpage](#)
- [UNHCR Europe region monthly updates](#)
- [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](#)

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Spain | Sweden | United Kingdom | Switzerland | Ireland | Republic of Korea | United States of America

We are also grateful for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector