

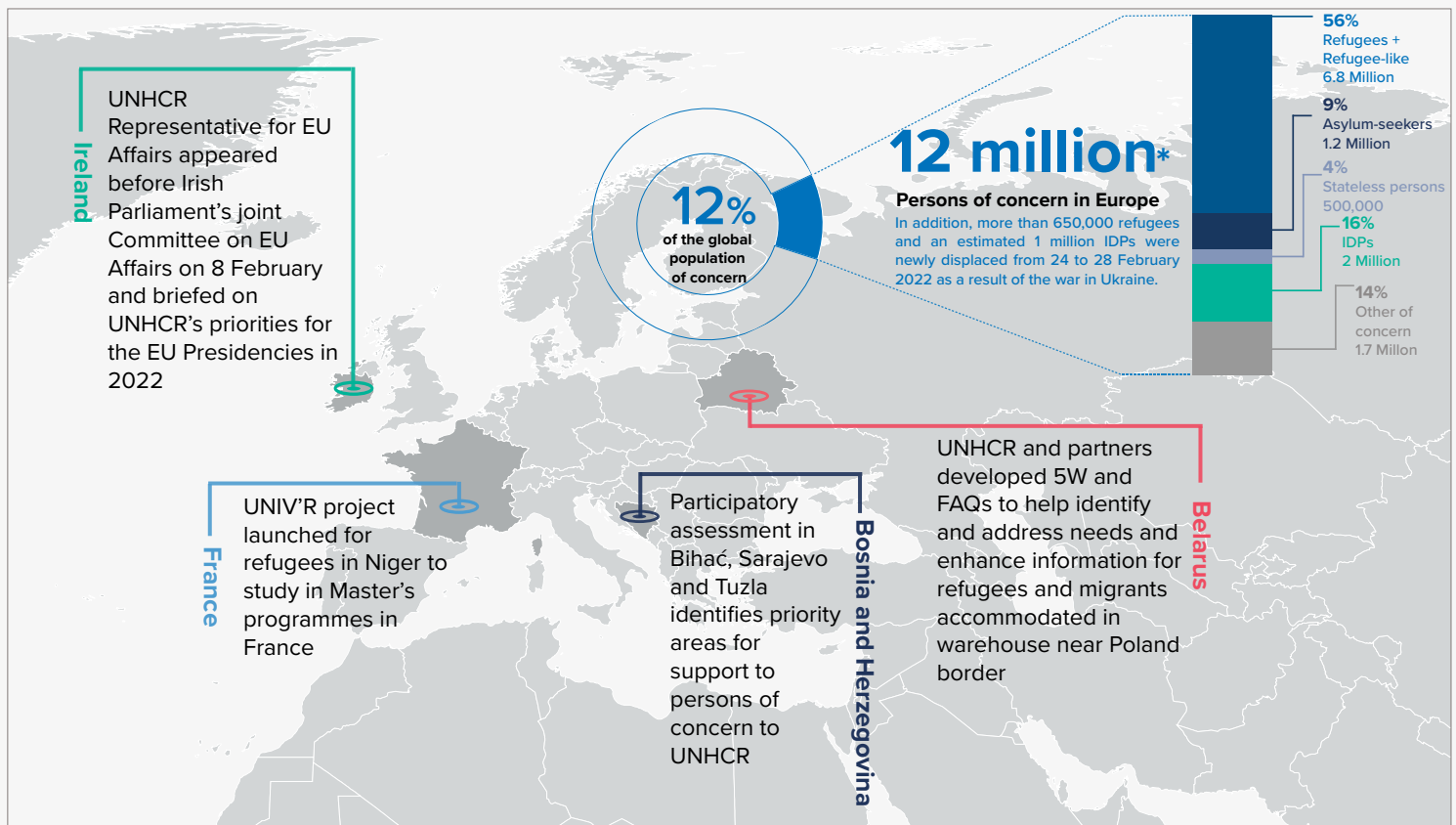
## MONTH IN REVIEW

**Ukraine Situation:** The war in Ukraine triggered a severe escalation of humanitarian needs and mass displacement of people internally and into neighbouring countries. In support of Governments, UNHCR is rapidly scaling up assistance and establishing coordination structures for the regional refugee response.

**Arrivals and displaced populations:** More than 650,000 refugees crossed from Ukraine into neighbouring countries from 24 to 28 February, while an additional 1 million people were newly displaced inside Ukraine. Some 6,300 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in February.

**COVID-19** infection rates declined across much of Europe in February, prompting authorities in many countries to ease movement and travel restrictions. Vaccination of persons of concern to UNHCR progressed in several countries.

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



\*Source: UNHCR 2021 mid-year trends and annex table. 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.

## ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

### UKRAINE SITUATION

**653,356** refugees crossed from Ukraine into neighbouring countries from 24 to 28 February. Within Ukraine, in addition to the already existing 850,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), an estimated 1 million persons have been newly displaced from 24 February to 1 March.\*

\*Protection Cluster, [Ukraine Response Protection Snapshot](#), 1 March 2022.

### MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

**14,066** refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the three Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes during the first two months of 2022, in 2022, a 38 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. Of these, some 6,300 people arrived in February 2022, 19 per cent fewer than in January 2022.

### SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

**1,960** persons arrived in or transited through the subregion in January and February 2022, 28 per cent fewer than in the same period in 2021. Of these, 1,090 persons arrived in or transited through the subregion in February, 25 per cent more than in January 2022.

### TURKEY

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

For more information, please see the UNHCR Turkey [February 2022 bi-annual fact sheet](#)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **UKRAINE SITUATION:** The Russian Federation (RF) launched a military offensive against Ukraine on 24 February, triggering a rapid escalation of humanitarian needs and the mass displacement of people within and out of Ukraine. By 28 February, more than 650,000 refugees had fled Ukraine into neighbouring countries, which generously kept borders open. UNHCR rapidly mobilized resources and staff for the immediate response, including supporting neighbouring Governments with initial reception capacity, protection monitoring and core relief items. In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR established refugee coordination structures at the regional and country levels and led development of a Regional Refugee Response Plan in coordination with inter-agency partners.
- **European Union (EU):** European ministers responsible for home affairs met for an extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council in Brussels on 27 February to discuss the Ukraine situation and the EU's response. The French Presidency, the European Commission and Member States (MS) discussed possibly triggering the 2001 [Temporary Protection Directive](#) to support people fleeing Ukraine in search of safety in the EU. Member States broadly supported the measure, to be further discussed at the JHA Council on 3 March. The Commission was also preparing to establish a "Solidarity Platform" to coordinate support provided by the Commission and its agencies.
- **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE):** Between 14 and 22 February, a number of extraordinary OSCE meetings took place in Vienna to discuss the worsening security situation at Ukraine's borders. On 24 February, the OSCE Chairmanship convened a reinforced [meeting](#) of the Permanent Council at ministerial level to discuss the Russian military offensive in Ukraine and Secretary General Schmid decided to temporarily evacuate all international mission members from Ukraine.
- **Council of Europe:** From 21 to 24 February, the Council of Europe published statements on the Ukraine situation by the [Commissioner for Human Rights](#), the [Secretary General](#), the [Chair of the Committee of Ministers](#), and the [President of the Parliamentary Assembly](#), while the Committee of Ministers issued a [press release](#) on its decision to suspend the Russian Federation's rights of representation in the Committee of Ministers and Parliamentary Assembly on 25 February.
- **VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT EUROPEAN BORDERS:** High Commissioner Grandi issued a [news comment](#) on 21 February, warning of increasing violence and human rights violations against refugees and migrants at European borders. Grandi expressed UNHCR's alarm at recurrent, consistent reports from Greece's land and sea borders with Turkey, where UNHCR had recorded almost 540 reported incidents of informal returns by Greece since early 2020. Disturbing incidents have also been reported in Central and South-East Europe at the borders with EU Member States.
- **EU PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM:** At the JHA Council on 3 February, EU Member States unanimously agreed to the French Presidency's phased approach to the Pact. Ministers in general supported key elements of the first phase, which includes progressive implementation of screening procedures; Eurodac and inclusion of a category for search and rescue (SAR); solidarity, including flexible (i.e. financial) solidarity and solidarity for SAR via a relocation mechanism; and better implementation of the current asylum framework.



Over **650,000** refugees flee Ukraine in first five days of the war



EU considers activating for the first time the **Temporary Protection Directive** to support those fleeing Ukraine



UNHCR expresses alarm about increasing violence and human rights violations against refugees and migrants at European borders



Some **6,300** refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in February 2022, 19 per cent fewer than in January 2022

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Belarus:** Out of some 2,000 refugees and migrants initially stranded at the Belarus-EU border, UNHCR estimates that some 740 remained sheltered in a warehouse near Belarus' border with Poland as of end February. This month, UNHCR and IOM developed a 5W reporting tool to facilitate identification of needs of those in the warehouse and ways to address them. UNHCR and partners also developed Frequently Asked Questions to prevent misinformation and ensure that staff of different agencies send the same key messages when approached with questions.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH):** In February, UNHCR conducted a comprehensive participatory assessment in Bihać, Sarajevo and Tuzla areas. The last participatory assessment in BiH was conducted in 2019. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were organized with persons of concern to UNHCR, including those with specific needs such as the LGBTQI+ community. UNHCR will draft a report based on these discussions, which will be used for advocacy and inform UNHCR's situational analysis and baselines for impact and outcome indicators.

**France:** Following the university corridor pilot project implemented last year by UNHCR, Forum réfugiés-Cosi and Clermont Auvergne University, the university launched the first call for applications through the UNIV'R project on 1 February, proposing seven Master's degree programmes in France for refugees currently in Niger. Additional calls by French universities will be launched in March. UNHCR met with the Universities Foundations Network on 3 February to share information on the UNIV'R project and discuss funding opportunities. The foundations of 16 universities participated in the meeting and expressed interest in the project.

**Ireland:** UNHCR appeared before the Irish Parliament's joint Committee on EU Affairs on 8 February. The Representative for EU Affairs briefed on UNHCR's priorities for the EU Presidencies in 2022. Committee members reaffirmed Ireland's commitment to the principle of solidarity and asked questions on the need for fast decisions in the asylum process, humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and the EU's commitment to accepting refugees from there. UNHCR drew attention to several issues, including its call to resettle Afghan refugees and continued resettlement needs around the world.

## COVID-19 SITUATION AND RESPONSE

- **Regional COVID-19 infection rates** declined steadily in February, with some 505,700 cases detected in the Europe and Central Asia region on 28 February, after having reached an all-time daily record in the region with some 2.1 million cases detected on 26 January, according to [WHO](#). Authorities in the large majority of countries eased COVID-19 movement and travel restrictions this month in light of the downward trend in infections.
- **UNHCR offices** in several countries began easing telework requirements, moving to a phased return to office. All offices are currently on partial telework mode.
- **Update on 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 **Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Malta** and **Serbia**. Vaccination of persons of concern in private accommodations and centres also reportedly continued in **Armenia** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.
- **Reception conditions:** Lack of sufficient reception spaces, overcrowding and inadequate facilities in a number of locations continue to pose challenges. Outbreaks in reception and/or 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 eight countries in February (**Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta** and **Montenegro**).
- **Communication with communities** on vaccination campaigns and the latest COVID-19 prevention measures continued across the region, making use of different channels, in line with the needs and preferences of persons of concern. This month, UNHCR and partners delivered information sessions in collective accommodation facilities, for example in **Serbia**, where UNHCR's partner organized three interactive health awareness workshops for asylum-seekers at the Krnjača asylum centre, featuring information on COVID-19 preventive measures and vaccination. In **Bulgaria**, UNHCR's partner provided translation support to persons of concern during vaccination procedures.

# EUROPE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS


## COUNTRY OFFICE TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

**UNHCR Ireland** @UNHCRireland

Refugee. Survivor. Activist.

Meet Ifrah Ahmed — the incredible woman who was instrumental in banning female genital mutilation in Ireland 🇮🇪


#EndFGM



**UNHCR Representation for EU A...** @Refugees\_EU

Remember their names.

A huge thank you to @Refugees Special Envoy Angelina Jolie for lifting up the stories of brave Afghan women.



**UNHCR Ukraine** @UNHCRukraine

Are you a refugee from #Ukraine? UNHCR can help.

Visit the page for the country you are in.

Hungary: [bit.ly/3tfnh4M](https://bit.ly/3tfnh4M)  
 Poland: [bit.ly/35ckvoR](https://bit.ly/35ckvoR)  
 Romania: [bit.ly/3HvhrkK](https://bit.ly/3HvhrkK)  
 Slovakia: [bit.ly/3HkZzJi](https://bit.ly/3HkZzJi)


In any other country: [bit.ly/3HsFisF](https://bit.ly/3HsFisF)

Are you a **refugee from Ukraine**? UNHCR can help.

Visit the page for the country you are in.

<https://help.unhcr.org/hungary>  
<https://help.unhcr.org/poland>  
<https://help.unhcr.org/romania>  
<https://help.unhcr.org/slovakia>

In any other country: <https://help.unhcr.org/>




**UNHCR United Kingdom** @UNHCRUK

The UK's proposed asylum policies are close to becoming law.

As UNHCR UK Representative Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor explains, without urgent amendments the Nationality and Borders Bill would cause a huge amount of suffering.

We are urging the Government to rethink.




The Bill would split refugees into two tiers

**UNHCR Greece** @UNHCRGreece

"We fear these deplorable practices now risk becoming normalized, and policy based. They reinforce a harmful and unnecessary 'fortress Europe' narrative."

— @FilippoGrandi UN High Commissioner for Refugees



## LEADER ACCOUNT TWEETS

- Filippo Grandi** @FilippoGrandi UNHCR steps up operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries [FEB 24]
- Kelly T. Clements** @KellyTClements The Republic of Moldova support refugees from Ukraine [FEB 25]
- Karolina L Billing** @KarolinaBilling UNHCR delivered the first batch of blankets, sleeping mats and other core relief items in Ukraine [FEB 16]
- Gonzalo Vargas Liosa** @Ilosa\_gonzalo Special Envoy Angelina Jolie shines a light on the stories of brave Afghan women [FEB 4]
- Chiara Cardoletti** @chiaraUNHCR 20 Years working with UNHCR [FEB 7]

## TOP NEWS STORIES

- New York Post [FEB 28] **EU plans to grant Ukraine war refugees three years of asylum**
- Reuters [FEB 24] **UN refugee agency urges countries to give fleeing Ukrainians safe haven**
- Forbes [FEB 22] **UN High Commissioner For Refugees Expresses Alarm Over Pushbacks**
- The Independent [FEB 22] **UN alarmed at increasing reports of Greek pushbacks**
- NBC News [FEB 17] **Europe is bracing for a possible huge influx of refugees if Russia attacks Ukraine**

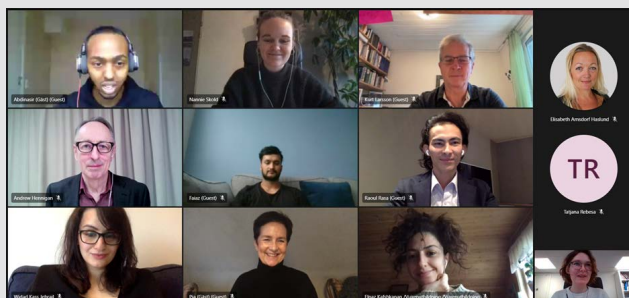
## PRESS RELEASES, STATEMENTS

Statement on the situation in Ukraine attributed to UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [FEB 24]

UNHCR warns of increasing violence and human rights violations at European borders [FEB 21]

## STORY SPOTLIGHT

### UNHCR and TEDxStockholm launch Refugee Speakers Programme



UNHCR and TedxStockholm launched the [Refugee Speakers Programme](#) to help amplify the voices and give nuance to the narratives of persons with a refugee background. In spring 2022, five young people from Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, selected through an open-call application process, will receive training in public speaking by volunteers from TEDxStockholm, preparing them to share their powerful stories about fleeing and building a new life in Sweden with the broader public.

## WHERE TO FIND?

### 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](#)

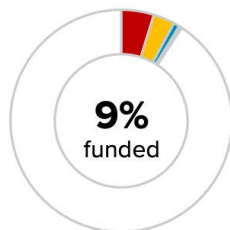
### Operational data portals:

[Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

[Mediterranean Situation](#)

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Requested for UNHCR's activities in Europe in 2022: **USD 924 M\***



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked
- Unearmarked
- Funding gap

Total contributed or pledged as of 22 February 2022: **USD 54,312,136**

including: European Union | Austria | Canada | L'Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | Migration MPTF | United Kingdom | Enel Cuore Onus | Fondation CHANEL | Malta | Other private donors

### Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's 2022 global programme

Sweden \$77.6M | Norway \$72.5M | Netherlands \$37.2M | Denmark \$35.6M | Germany \$27.6M | Switzerland \$18.4M | Belgium \$11.9M | Ireland \$11.8M

Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed USD 10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

\* This amount refers to UNHCR's financial requirements as of end of February 2022 and does not include UNHCR's supplementary appeal issued in March 2022 for the Ukraine situation.