

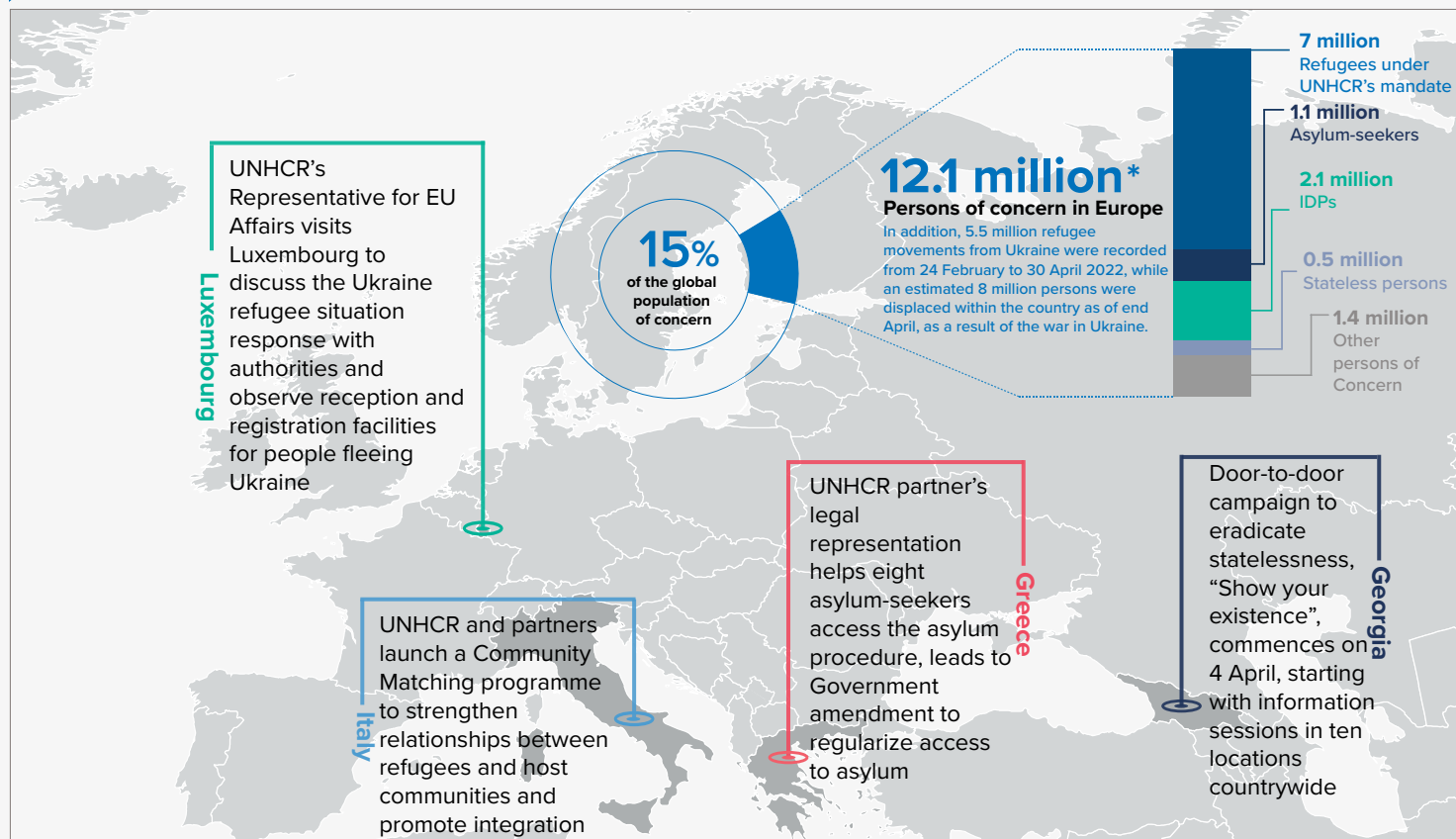
MONTH IN REVIEW

Ukraine Situation: The international armed conflict in Ukraine has led to one of the fastest-growing displacement crises on record and a surge in humanitarian needs in Ukraine and nearby countries hosting large refugee populations. UNHCR continued to scale up its response, further strengthening protection mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable.

Arrivals and displaced populations: Some 5.5 million refugee movements from Ukraine into neighbouring countries were recorded from 24 February to 30 April 2022,¹ while an estimated 8 million people were displaced inside Ukraine as of end April.² In the first four months of 2022, some 24,900 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes, a 21 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 <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

² [IOM Ukraine Internal Displacement Report \(29 April - 3 May 2022\)](#)

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

UKRAINE SITUATION

5,510,985 refugee movements from Ukraine into neighbouring countries were recorded from 24 February to 30 April 2022. Within Ukraine, an estimated 8 million persons were displaced inside the country as of end April* and an additional 13.7 million people were in conflict-affected areas.*

* [IOM Ukraine Internal Displacement Report \(29 April - 3 May 2022\)](#)

MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

24,951 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the three Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in the first four months of 2022, a 21 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2021. In April 2022, arrivals increased by 68 per cent compared to March 2022 and by 52 per cent compared to April 2021.

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

5,790 persons have arrived in or transited through the subregion so far in 2022, 31 per cent fewer than in the same period in 2021. Of these, 2,060 persons arrived in or transited through the subregion in April, 17 per cent more than in March 2022.

TÜRKİYE

Türkiye 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 Türkiye February 2022 bi-annual fact sheet](#)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **UKRAINE SITUATION:** The war in Ukraine has led to one of the fastest-growing displacement crises on record and a surge in humanitarian needs in Ukraine and nearby countries hosting large refugee populations. By 30 April 2022, more than 5.5 million refugee movements from Ukraine into neighbouring countries had been recorded.
- On 25 April, UNHCR and partners released the revised [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP) for the Ukraine situation, seeking USD 1.85 billion to help refugees in Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, as well as in other countries in the region, such as Belarus, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. The revised RRP outlines the planned response and activities of 142 partners in support of refugees and their host countries through December 2022. The plan aims to ensure that refugees fleeing Ukraine have access to safety and protection, timely and life-saving humanitarian assistance, and solutions through the promotion of social and economic opportunities.
- UNHCR, as lead of the inter-agency refugee response, further scaled up operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries in April, focusing on strengthening protection mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable. During the month, UNHCR expanded its cash assistance programmes in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Romania. In addition, UNHCR jointly with UNICEF continued the roll-out of Blue Dots—one-stop-shop safe spaces that provide a minimum set of protection services for children, families and others with specific needs—in Bulgaria (1), Italy (2), Moldova (6), Poland (5), Romania (3) and Slovakia (2).
- **European Union (EU):** At the European Parliament Plenary session on 7 April, Members of European Parliament (MEPs) [adopted](#) a [Resolution](#) calling on EU countries to implement various measures to protect children and young people fleeing war in Ukraine and to facilitate their integration in host communities. MEPs also announced that EU countries sheltering people fleeing Ukraine would immediately receive EUR 3.4 billion, after the European Parliament had authorized the redirection of EU regional and asylum funding to EU countries hosting refugees from Ukraine.
- **Council of Europe:** The Council of Europe developed virtual [HELP e-Desks](#) for lawyers assisting people fleeing the war, based on the joint UNHCR-Council of Europe Help course on Asylum and Human Rights.
- **THE UNITED KINGDOM'S NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL** was approved by Parliament on 27 April and enacted as law on 28 April. UNHCR issued a [news comment](#) from the High Commissioner expressing regret about the passage of the Bill, which undermines established international refugee protection law and practice. UNHCR had outlined its concerns and objections to the Bill on several occasions and offered advice on how to implement a more effective and fairer asylum procedure. The High Commissioner underscored UNHCR's commitment to continue engaging with the United Kingdom, a long-standing partner, to identify practical means to uphold its international commitments.



5.5 million refugee movements from Ukraine into neighbouring countries from 24 February to 31 April 2022



UNHCR expresses strong regrets on passage of United Kingdom Nationality and Borders Bill



Some **6,800** refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in April 2022, 52 per cent more than in April 2021

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Georgia: The door-to-door campaign to eradicate statelessness, “Show your existence”, launched on 4 April, after UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with Georgia’s Public Service Development Agency. As a starting point, countrywide information sessions were organized for some 250 representatives of local municipalities, regional administrative bodies and local NGOs, who were informed about the issue of statelessness and the statelessness determination procedure. The sessions were held in the offices of municipal administrations and Public Service Halls in ten locations across Georgia.

Greece: On 8 April, METAdrasi launched its UNHCR-supported “Non-Formal Education for Adult Refugees and Asylum-Seekers” project in the Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC) in Samos. This completes the launch of the language classes across the islands, as the project is already underway on Chios, Kos and Lesbos. The project provides Greek language courses and pre-vocational training on social and professional skills to asylum-seekers, as part of UNHCR’s broader integration interventions on the islands aligned with the Government’s Integration Strategy.

Italy: To promote refugees’ integration in host communities, UNHCR launched a Community Matching programme in April with partners Refugees Welcome Italia and CIAS Onlus, with funding from the Soka Gakkai Buddhist Institute. The programme will be implemented in Bari, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin, and aims to strengthen relationships between refugees and host communities by matching participating refugees (initially 63) with volunteer buddies from the host community. See UNHCR’s press release [here](#).

Luxembourg: UNHCR’s Representative for EU Affairs was on [mission](#) in Luxembourg on 5-6 April, where he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss Luxembourg and UNHCR’s response to the Ukraine refugee situation and areas for collaboration at the national and EU level. The trip included visits to the “guichet unique”, a centralized one-stop-shop set up on 30 March for people fleeing Ukraine to facilitate temporary protection registration and access to information and services, as well as two accommodation facilities that serve as first reception centres for those fleeing Ukraine.

COVID-19 SITUATION AND RESPONSE

- **Regional COVID-19 infection rates** declined steadily throughout April 2022, dropping to levels last seen in November 2021, with some 286,000 cases detected in the Europe and Central Asia region on 30 April, according to the [World Health Organization](#). Authorities in a number of countries further eased COVID-19 movement and travel restrictions in April 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, Croatia, Kosovo***, **Montenegro** and **Spain**. Vaccination of persons of concern in private accommodations were also reported in **Armenia**.
- **Quarantine measures upon arrival:** Countries recording significant numbers of sea arrivals continued to adjust testing and quarantine measures in response to the evolving epidemiological situation. Authorities in **Italy** lifted most COVID-19 restrictions for arrivals on 31 March, with isolation now required only in case of a positive test result upon arrival or close contact with a positive case. However, all new sea arrivals must still undergo a five-day “COVID-19 surveillance” period, generally on offshore ferries for those arriving in Sicily and the islands and in onshore facilities for those arriving in Apulia and Calabria. As of early May, more than 2,000 sea arrivals were undergoing the surveillance period, awaiting transfer to reception facilities. In **Spain**, in response to a downward trend in infections, authorities ended the quarantine requirement for new arrivals, while continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccination at reception centres. Meanwhile, according to a Joint Ministerial Decision in **Greece**, arrivals must quarantine for five days upon arrival, after which a new test should be conducted and in case of positive result, isolation extended for at least five more days until symptoms subside.
- **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 three countries in April (**Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia**).

*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

EUROPE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY OFFICE TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR Ireland @UNHCRireland

Congratulations to @refugees High Profile Supporter Jess Murphy and the team @kaigalway, who made dumplings with a group of women from Eastern Europe and raised over €33k for UNHCR's operations in Ukraine. Thanks also to all those who contributed to a beautiful evening, including



UNHCR United Kingdom @UNHCRUK

UNHCR regrets that final amendments to the Nationality and Borders Bill were rejected.

The Bill will now become law.


The new law undermines established international refugee protection laws and practices and risks causing very real suffering to vulnerable people.

“

The UK is a nation that rightly prides itself on its long history of welcoming and protecting refugees.

It is disappointing that it would choose a course of action aimed at deterring the seeking of asylum by relegating most refugees to a new, lesser status with few rights and a constant threat of removal.

Filippo Grandi,
UN High Commissioner for Refugees



UNHCR Ukraine @UNHCRUkraine

@UNHCRUkraine sent urgent aid to 3000 people in the #Sievierodonetsk area as part of a humanitarian convoy

People in the area have endured weeks of shelling, power cuts & water shortage

We sent items such as solar lamps, tarpaulin sheets, baby formula & hygiene kits



LEADER ACCOUNT TWEETS

Chiara Cardoletti @chiaraUNHCR
UNICORE offers 69 young refugees opportunity to continue studies in Italy [01 APR]

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa @llosa_gonzalo
Assistant High Commissioner Raouf Mazou addresses European Parliament [04 APR]

Marin Din Kajdomcaj @MarinKajdomcaj
1,000 refugees a day enrol at emergency cash assistance centre in Poland [04 APR]

Francesca Bonelli @FraBonelli
UNHCR and IOM facilitate another transfer flight from Moldova to European Union [9 APR]

Karolina L Billing @KarolinaBilling
UNHCR angered and saddened by attack on Caritas office in Mariupol [11 APR]

PRESS RELEASES, STATEMENTS

Statement: Statement to European Parliament on the Ukraine refugee situation and the EU's response [04 APR]

Briefing Note: UNHCR redoubles its aid inside Ukraine and the region [08 APR]

Press Release: UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner lauds solidarity of Romania and the Republic of Moldova towards Ukrainian refugees [09 APR]

Press Release: Statement on risks of trafficking and exploitation facing refugees from Ukraine attributed to UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection [12 APR]

Press Release: UN Refugee Agency opposes UK plan to export asylum [14 APR]

Briefing Note: UNHCR and partners call for urgent support for refugees from Ukraine and their hosts [26 APR]

News comment: UNHCR's Grandi fears UK legislation will dramatically weaken refugee protection [27 APR]

UNHCR Italia @UNHCRItalia

“Grazie all'impegno delle università italiane 71 studenti rifugiati erano già arrivati in Italia nei primi tre anni di progetto. Poter raddoppiare questo numero è un risultato straordinario e un esempio per gli altri paesi europei”.

~ @ChiaraUNHCR, Rappresentante UNHCR Italia

Translate Tweet



Università per Stranieri di Siena and 4 others

UNHCR Greece @UNHCRGreece

"I learn Greek to be able to connect with people and communicate in my daily life. It's a very nice language."

18-year-old Amiro from Somalia is among the refugees & asylum seekers attending language & skills classes for adults offered by @metadrasl and UNHCR on Chios island.



TOP NEWS STORIES

The Guardian [13 APR]
Stop matching lone female Ukraine refugees with single men, UK told

BBC [14 APR]
UK asylum deal: Is Rwanda a land of safety or fear?

Daily Mail [15 APR]
Rwanda migration policy breaches international law, says UN refugee agency

Reuters [20 APR]
More than 5 million people have fled Ukraine, says UNHCR

New York Post [30 APR]
Over 3,000 migrants dead or lost at sea en route to Europe in 2021, UN says

STORY SPOTLIGHT

Ukrainian volunteer rallies village to welcome displaced families



When Rymma Mytrak saw reports of families fleeing heavy fighting in other parts of Ukraine and moving west in search of safety, she decided to act. The 35-year-old former hairdresser knew from personal experience how important a place of safety is for those with nowhere else to go. “I am from an orphanage myself, so I felt I must do everything possible to help people who – like myself many years ago – needed support,” she explained.

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

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:

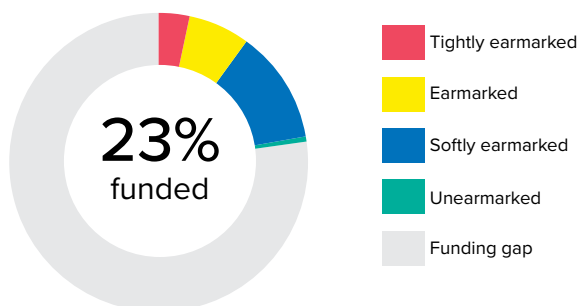
[Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

[Mediterranean Situation](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

Total contributed or pledged as of 30 April 2022: **USD 415,942,235**



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