

### **EUROPE MONTHLY UPDATE**

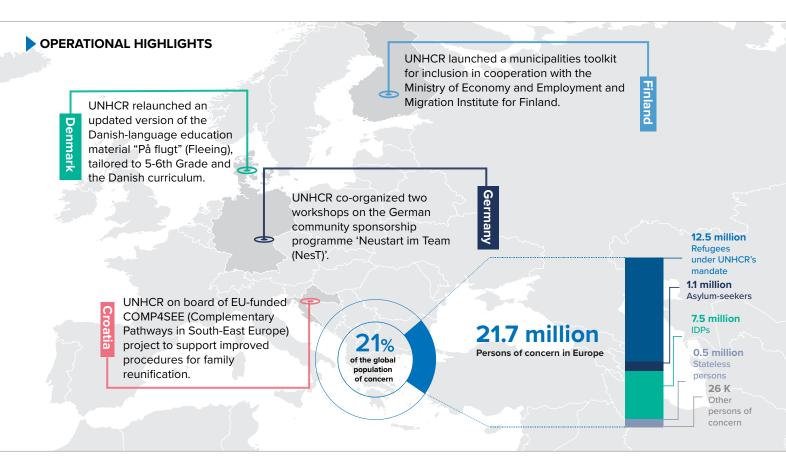
Regional Bureau for Europe | September 2022

#### **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 7.5 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of end September 2022,¹ while an estimated 6.2 million people were displaced inside Ukraine.² Since the beginning of the year, some 110,300 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes, a 31 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2021.

**COVID-19**: Regional COVID-19 infection rates increased somewhat in September after declining gradually since July. Positive cases were detected in reception centres in at least two countries.



Source: UNHCR data finder platform and mid-year statistics data as of 30 June 2022. 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.

#### ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

# UKRAINE SITUATION

**7,535,874** refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of end September 2022, while an estimated 6.2 million persons were displaced inside the country.

# MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

110,300 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the three Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes since the beginning of 2022, a 31 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2021. As of 30 September, 1,751, people have been reported dead or missing in 2022 on the three Mediterranean and the Northwest African maritime routes.

#### SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

**26,500** persons have arrived in or transited through the subregion so far in 2022, 14% more than in the same period in 2021. 5,600 persons arrived in or transited through the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements in September 2022, 11% 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.<sup>3</sup>

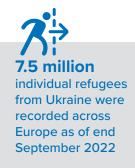
<sup>1.</sup> Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation

<sup>2.</sup> IOM, Ukraine Internal Displacement Report, 26 September 2022

For more information, please see the <u>UNHCR Türkiye February 2022 bi-annual fact sheet</u>

#### **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 6.2 million people remain internally displaced by the war. As of end September, some 7.5 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, and over 4.1 million refugees had registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe. Some 13 million border crossings from Ukraine have been recorded since 24 February, and authorities reported some 6.2 million crossings into the country since 28 February.
- UNHCR continued scaling up its operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, focusing on strengthening protection mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable. The office also continued to support governments in coordinating the refugee response. As of September, over 2.1 million people have been reached with assistance inside Ukraine. Over 559,248 people have received cash assistance in Ukraine and over 420,178 have received cash assistance overall in Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia. Jointly with UNICEF, UNHCR continues operating Blue Dot safe spaces providing refugees with critical protection information and services, with 36 Blue Dots operational in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia, as of end September.
- As UNHCR has released a second intentions survey, "Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine", conducted among refugees from Ukraine hosted in 43 countries across Europe and beyond. The report, based on 4,800 responses collected between August and September, presents the intentions of refugees from Ukraine, an in-depth analysis of the factors influencing their decisions, and key insights into their current socio-economic situation and profiles.
- European Union (EU): The yearly UNHCR-DG ECHO High Level Dialogue took place on 30 September in Brussels under the leadership of UNHCR Deputy High Commission Kelly T. Clements and DG ECHO Acting General-Director Michael Koehler. The HLD this year focused on UNHCR-ECHO's partnership, coordination, leadership and advocacy in forced displacement situations, and cash assistance. It was a constructive discussion which reaffirmed the importance of UNHCR and the EU's partnership, and of our commitment to work together to ensure adequate and coherent funding to UNHCR, promote the humanitarian-development nexus and expand the donor base.
- Council of Europe (CoE): On 21 September, the Council of Europe and UNHCR North Macedonia and Strasbourg co-organised a joint roundtable on "Access to social and economic rights and integration related services for refugees and stateless persons" in Skopje, North Macedonia. Participants discussed measures aimed at preventing and reducing statelessness, as well as the implementation of relevant international and Council of Europe instruments and standards, and new avenues for enhancing the protection of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons and contributing to developing good practices in North Macedonia.
- United Kingdom: A Judicial Review into the UK Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) took place in the UK High Court during the week of 5 September. UNHCR was involved as an intervener and permitted one hour to make oral submissions during the week's hearing.





**36** Blue Dots established jointly by UNHCR and UNICEF in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia as of end September



<sup>4.</sup> Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation

#### **OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Croatia: On 22 September, UNHCR attended a meeting of the Project Board within the EU-funded COMP4SEE (Complementary Pathways in South-East Europe) project. The project is implemented by UNHCR's partner, the Croatian Law Centre. The project supports advocacy for improved procedures for family reunification and introducing sponsorship schemes, including the provision of legal counselling, as well as covering the cost of administrative fees and travel for eligible family members of beneficiaries of international protection.
- Denmark: On 21 September, UNHCR in partnership with publisher Alinea relaunched an updated version of the Danish-language education material "På flugt" (Fleeing) tailored to 5-6th Grade and the Danish curriculum. The material was first produced in 2020, but has been updated with Global Trends Report figures and information on the Ukraine situation, and is available to all schools free of charge via Alinea's portal, <a href="www.forstå.dk">www.forstå.dk</a>. The relaunch was communicated on social media as well as through the publisher's newsletter to all subscribed teachers.
- Finland: On 6 September, a toolkit commissioned by UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe and developed in collaboration with the Migration Policy Group, titled "Effective Inclusion of Refugees: participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level", was launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Employment and Migration Institute for Finland.
- Germany: On 26 September, UNHCR co-organized two workshops on the German community sponsorship programme 'Neustart im Team (NesT)'. Both workshops were conducted with the support of the the central coordination institution for NesT, consisting of the German Red Cross, Caritas and the Protestant Church of Westphalia. The workshops targeted local authorities as well as migrant- or refugee led organisations. The events highlighted some of the current challenges as well as positive experiences, and encouraged participation in the programme.

#### **COVID-19 SITUATION AND RESPONSE**

- Regional COVID-19 infection rates increased moderately in September after a decreasing steadily since July. Some 1.8 million cases were detected in the Europe region during the last week of the month, compared to some 1.2 million cases during the last week of August, according to the World Health Organization.
- **Vaccination:** Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons are generally included in national vaccination campaigns on par with the general population.
- 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 Spain, new arrivals in Ceuta and Melilla are no longer required to stay in quarantine provided the antigen test is negative.
- 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 movement restrictions for some centre residents, with additional cases detected in centres in at least two countries in September (Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

#### **EUROPE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

#### UNHCR United Kingdom Toto Wolff explains the secrets of @MercedesAMGF1's success to Maya Ghazal 🚙 Maya is a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, a Syrian

refugee and a pilot. In this behind the scenes tour, she finds out just how importance maths is at Silverstone.



#### PRESS RELEASES. **STATEMENTS**

Press Release: UNHCR. UNICEF establish dozens of support hubs in countries hosting Ukrainian refugees [21 SEP]

Press Release: UNHCR survey: Refugees from Ukraine eager to work but need sustained support to ensure inclusion [23] SEP1

Press Release: IOM, UNHCR, and UNRWA: Latest tragedy at sea off Syria must prompt action [23 SEP]

#### **COUNTRY OFFICE TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS**



Nu de plannen en intenties van het kabinet bekend zijn gemaakt, namelijk o.a. het vertragen van gezinshereniging, kunnen wij niets anders concluderen dan dat deze in strijd zijn met Internationale en regionale mensenrechtenverdragen. (1/3)



More than 60 private homes were destroyed or damaged in the missile strikes against #Dnipro last

UNHCR's partner @MissionProliska is on the ground providing emergency housing repair material kits and



## **TOP NEWS STORIES**The

Francesca Bonelli

Independent [06 SEP]

and Moldovans. [15 SEP]

Rwanda 'not a safe third country' for asylum seekers and UK deal must be stopped, UN tells court

LEADER ACCOUNT TWEETS

UNHCR offers condolences on the

Six Syrian refugees lost their lives

at sea. UNHCR is in Pozzallo to help

The response to the Ukraine

refugee situation shows Europe's

capacity for a workable approach to

UNHCR Representative in Ukraine visits Zabuyannia where UNHCR is helping to repair damaged homes

ter is coming and brings additional challenges and risks for refugees

Win-

passing of Her Majesty Queen Eliza-

Filippo Grandi

beth II [08 SEP]

Chiara Cardoletti

the survivors. [12 SEP]

**Gonzalo Vargas Llosa** 

asylum [14 SEP] **Karolina L Billing** 

[15 SEP]

Bild [13 SEP]

Small children died of thirst on refugee boat

BBC [24 SEP]

Dozens of migrants killed as boat sinks off Syrian coast

Bloomberg [30 SEP]

**Europe Strains Under Fresh Migra**tion Challenge

Daily Mail [30 SEP]

Nobel Peace Prize could condemn Ukraine war or highlight climate change



🞪 😻 La cultura es el arte que mejora a las personas.

Más de 4.000 niños y niñas refugiados y locales participaron en unos espectáculos de integración y sanación.

Recordamos la gira de Payasos sin Fronteras @psfcwb en Ecuador con una sonrisa

ricas @ACNUREcuador





"The road safety project is an opportunity to drive my own life, thank you for this!"

A touching ceremony in the presence of @jeantodt, the UN SG Special Envoy for Road Safety, brought together the refugee women and men who graduated from the road safety training in Athens. 1/2



#### **STORY SPOTLIGHT**

#### "For Valentin, statelessness meant 'a lifetime proving I exist"

Until early last month, Valentin, 20, from Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia, was one of millions of stateless people around the world. With no legal identity, he was never able to do things most of us take for granted, such as enrolling in high school, having a medical or dental check-up, getting legal employment, or traveling outside his country. It has taken more than half his life, but thanks to UNHCR and our partner, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Valentin has finally gained full citizenship and will soon receive his first national ID card. Valentin now hopes many others will benefit from gaining a legal identity. "It's not only me out there," he says. "There are many people in the country who do not have documents. I would like to send an appeal to everyone to resolve not only my case, but to also resolve the cases of everybody else in my situation."



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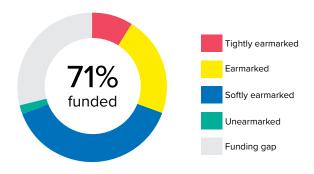
#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Requested for UNHCR's activities in Europe in 2022:

#### USD 1.992 billion\*

Total contributed or pledged as of 29 September 2022:

#### USD 1,423,532,935



<sup>\*</sup>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