

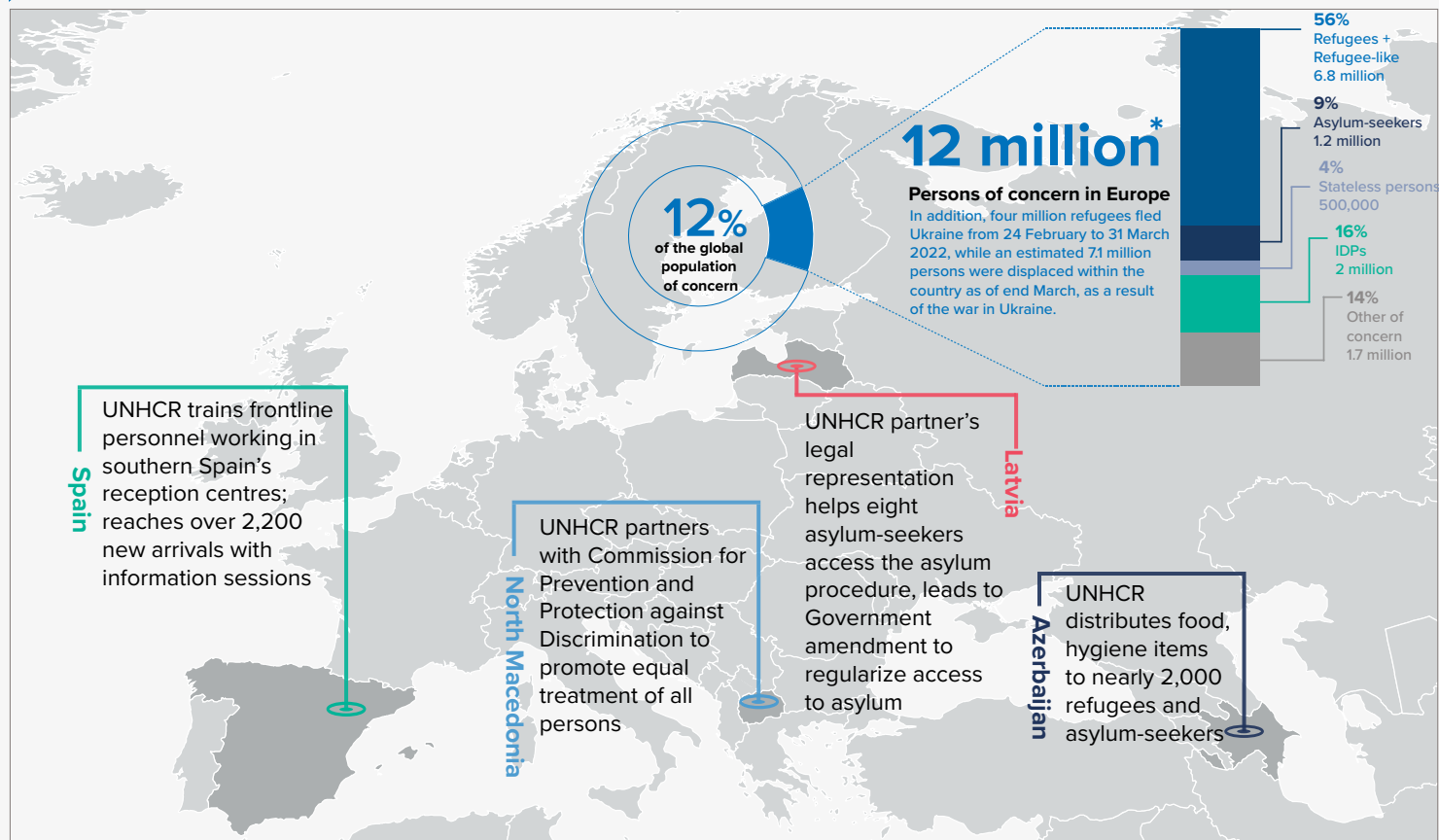
MONTH IN REVIEW

Ukraine Situation: The international armed conflict in Ukraine continued to cause loss of life, widespread destruction and mass population displacement. UNHCR provided critical protection and assistance in Ukraine and the region and welcomed the European Union Council's decision to activate the Temporary Protection Directive.

Arrivals and displaced populations: Four million refugees fled Ukraine from 24 February to 31 March 2022, while an estimated 7.1 million IDPs were displaced within the country as of end March.¹ Some 4,100 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in March.

COVID-19: Authorities in virtually all countries further eased COVID-19 movement and travel restrictions amid an overall downward trend in infections rates. Vaccination of persons of concern to UNHCR progressed in several countries.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Source: UNHCR 2021 mid-year trends. 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 Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 2 (24 March — 1 April 2022)

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

UKRAINE SITUATION

4,032,238 refugees crossed from Ukraine into neighbouring countries from 24 February to 31 March 2022. Within Ukraine, some 7.1 million persons were estimated to be displaced inside the country as of end March and an additional 13 million were in conflict-affected areas.*

*Protection Cluster, [Ukraine Response Protection Snapshot](#), 17 - 26 March 2022.

MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

18,182 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the three Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes so far in 2022, a 32 per cent decrease compared to the same period last year. Of these, some 4,100 people arrived in March 2022, 34 per cent fewer than in February 2022.

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

3,730 persons have arrived in or transited through the subregion so far in 2022, 35 per cent fewer than in the same period in 2021. Of these, 1,760 persons arrived in or transited through the subregion in March, 61 per cent more than in February 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 Russian Federation (RF) invaded Ukraine on 24 February, triggering a rapid escalation of humanitarian needs and mass population displacement. By 31 March, 4 million refugee movements from Ukraine into neighbouring countries had been recorded.
- On 1 March, UNHCR and partners released the initial [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP) for the Ukraine situation, seeking a preliminary USD 550.6 million to help refugees in Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and other countries in the region. The RRP outlines the planned response and activities of 12 inter-agency partners for six months to support host countries in providing shelter, emergency relief items, cash assistance, and mental health and psychosocial support to those who fled Ukraine.
- UNHCR, as lead of the inter-agency refugee response, scaled up operations in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries in March, focusing on strengthening protection mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable, and launched cash assistance programmes in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Poland.
- **European Union (EU):** The EU Council formally [agreed](#) to trigger the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) on 4 March, and the Commission published its [Guidance](#) on the roll-out of the TPD on 18 March, clarifying who is entitled to temporary protection, defining “adequate protection” under national law, and encouraging Member States to consider extending temporary protection to persons not falling under the scope of the TPD, among other points. The Commission also released a [Communication on Welcoming those fleeing war in Ukraine](#), on 23 March, including measures for Member States in the field of education, health care, employment, housing and how to access necessary funding.
- **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE):** On 17 March, UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Operations addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. He pointed to a number of protection issues, in particular for women and girls, referred to the new Flash Appeal and the Regional Refugee Response Plan, and thanked donors and private citizens for the support provided so far. The OSCE Secretary General, the Chairman-in-Office and many participating States expressed appreciation for the briefing, the humanitarian response and UNHCR’s engagement in staying on the ground in Ukraine and serving displaced populations.
- **COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CJEU):** 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 Türkiye, 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 Eastern Europe at the borders with EU Member States.
- **THE UNITED KINGDOM’S NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL:** came close to completing its passage through Parliament. On 22 March, the House of Commons rejected amendments passed by the House of Lords, and on 4 April the Bill will return to the Lords, who will be asked to agree with the reversal of their amendments or propose alternative ones. Once agreement is reached on the outstanding amendments, the Bill becomes law. Throughout March, UNHCR continued to [communicate](#) key messages on the Bill, highlighting the need to ensure its compliance with international law and the Refugee Convention to safeguard the rights of those seeking asylum.



4 million refugee movements from Ukraine into neighbouring countries from 24 February to 31 March 2022



EU Council activated Temporary Protection Directive to support those fleeing Ukraine



UNHCR intervened in GBV case before EU Court of Justice



Some **4,100** refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes in March 2022, 31 per cent fewer than in March 2021

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Azerbaijan: In the second week of March, UNHCR started home delivery of food parcels and hygiene kits to all refugee and asylum-seeking families registered by UNHCR. Each parcel contains 15.6 kg of food items, including flour, tea, sugar, sunflower oil, pasta, rice, buckwheat, lentils and biscuits. As of 31 March, UNHCR had distributed 1,234 food parcels and 632 hygiene kits reaching some 1,960 refugees, asylum-seekers and their family members, with plans to reach more than 2,060 overall by 10 April.

Latvia: UNHCR's partner the Latvian Centre for Human Rights successfully represented eight asylum-seekers who had been exceptionally admitted at the border with Belarus but whose asylum applications had not been accepted and registered by the Border Guard. As a result of the court decisions, the applications have now been registered and these asylum-seekers have been relocated from detention to a reception centre. The Ministry of Interior subsequently announced amendments to the Government's emergency order to regularize access to asylum in accordance with the court decisions.

North Macedonia: On 1 March, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the national Commission for Preventing and Protection against Discrimination to work jointly to prevent discrimination against and support the rights of all persons under UNHCR's mandate in North Macedonia to promote their inclusion and integration. The two organizations will collaborate through partnerships on protection, community outreach, communication and transforming the narrative for refugees, asylum-seekers, subsidiary protection holders and persons at risk of statelessness to promote equal treatment of all persons in the country.

Spain: As part of ongoing capacity-building efforts, UNHCR led training sessions on the identification of persons with specific needs and interview techniques for police officers managing asylum interviews in Ceuta and Melilla, and for over 100 social workers and lawyers from government entities, NGOs and the Spanish Red Cross working in reception centres in Almeria, Granada, Tenerife and Ceuta in March. UNHCR also organized several information sessions on international protection and the asylum procedure reaching 2,227 newly arrived persons in detention and reception centres, including child protection centres, in Andalusia, the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

COVID-19 SITUATION AND RESPONSE

- **Regional COVID-19 infection rates** rose moderately in the first three weeks of March, before declining slightly toward the end of the month, with some 842,000 cases detected in the Europe and Central Asia region on 31 March, according to the [World Health Organization](#). Authorities in virtually all countries further eased COVID-19 movement and travel restrictions this month 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, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Malta, Montenegro** and **Spain**. Vaccination of persons of concern in private accommodations also continued in **Armenia**.
- **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 six countries in March (**Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia** and **Cyprus**).
- **UNHCR advocacy** for inclusion of all persons of concern in national COVID-19 response plans continues, where these are not equally applied to all population groups, for example in **Albania**, where asylum-seekers who have not yet received their national health service card remain unable to access vaccination. In **Greece**, where the Coast Guard in Chios continues to fine new arrivals for breaking COVID-19 restrictions on entry in the country, UNHCR sent a letter to the Head of the Hellenic Coast Guard, advocating to review and change the practice and revoke old fines.

PRESS RELEASES, STATEMENTS

UN seeks US\$1.7 billion as humanitarian needs soar in Ukraine and neighbouring countries [01 MAR]

UNHCR mobilizing to aid forcibly displaced in Ukraine and neighbouring countries [01 MAR]

News Comment: 1 million refugees have fled Ukraine in a week [03 MAR]

News Comment: UNHCR welcomes EU decision to offer Temporary Protection to Refugees fleeing Ukraine [04 MAR]

Unaccompanied and separated children fleeing escalating conflict in Ukraine must be protected [07 MAR]

News Comment: UNHCR's Grandi praises Europe's welcome for Refugees fleeing Ukraine [08 MAR]

UNHCR scales up for those displaced by war in Ukraine, deploys cash assistance [11 MAR]

Private sector donates over US\$200 million to UNHCR's Ukraine emergency response [14 MAR]

Poland welcomes more than two million refugees from Ukraine [18 MAR]

IOM, UNHCR welcome the first flights of refugees out of Moldova to EU Member States [22 MAR]

FC Barcelona and UNHCR unite for forcibly displaced children worldwide [24 MAR]

News comment: Without international solidarity, Ukraine's displacement crisis could turn into catastrophe [24 MAR]

A month since the start of the war, almost a quarter of Ukraine's population are displaced [25 MAR]

Football unites in global appeal for the United Nations response to Ukraine [29 MAR]

UN High Commissioner for Refugees calls for immediate end to Ukraine war, which has uprooted over 10 million people [31 MAR]

EUROPE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY OFFICE TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

Le HCR en France @UNHCRfrance

"Arabes, asiatiques, africains, nous tous sommes les mêmes. On fuit la guerre. Et la guerre était réelle."

Beni et Guy, réfugiés de RDC accueillis en #Ukraine, ont fui lors des bombardements sur #Kyiv. Après la Pologne, ils sont arrivés en France, sans leur troisième frère.



Guy Fele et son frère Beni, originaires de RDC, ont fui les bombardements à Kiev.

AS Roma English @ASRomaEN

#ASRoma @Refugees



UNHCR Italia

UNHCR Italia @UNHCRItalia

Replying to @ASRomaEN and @Refugees

Thanks @OfficialASRoma @ASRomaEN for standing with refugees from Ukraine 🙏

UNHCR Ukraine @UNHCRUkraine

On Friday, @UNHCRUkraine trucks carrying urgent supplies arrived in Kharkiv – one of the hardest-hit cities in Ukraine.

With the help of local authorities & NGO Station Kharkiv, approx 3000 people will receive blankets, sleeping mats & food items like porridge & canned foods



ACNUR España @ACNURSpain

De Ucrania
De Afganistán
De Mali
De Etiopía
De la República Democrática del Congo
De Irak
De Myanmar
Del Sahel
De Sudán del Sur
De Siria
De Venezuela
De Yemen

Vengan de donde vengan, estamos #ConLosRefugiados.

UNHCR Serbia @UNHCRSerbia

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador @MIYAVI_OFFICIAL visited our office and shared inspirational experiences advocating for @Refugees.

"With music, sport, and culture, we can spark a bright light of the hope to the refugees" - MIYAVI to the UNHCR Serbia Staff. 🌟

#WithRefugees #MIYAVI



LEADER ACCOUNT TWEETS

Filippo Grandi @FilippoGrandi
In 7 days, one million people fled Ukraine. Filippo Grandi calls for peace [01 MAR]

Karolina L Billing @KarolinaBilling
UNHCR and OCHA deliver humanitarian aid to Sumy in eastern Ukraine [03 MAR]

Francesca Bonelli @FraBonelli
"You are safe & welcome here". Moldova receives refugees from Ukraine. [14 MAR]

Christoph Pinter @UNHCR_Pinter
Asylum is a human right. It doesn't matter which country you're fleeing from [17 MAR]

Christine Goyer @GoyerChristine
Cash support programme starts in Poland to support refugees from Ukraine [21 MAR]

TOP NEWS STORIES

Forbes [02 MAR]
Ukraine's Neighbours Welcome Hundreds of Thousands of Refugees as Humanitarian Needs Mount amid Russian Invasion

The Guardian [06 MAR]
Ukraine has fastest-growing refugee crisis since second world war, says UN

Daily Mail [08 MAR]
UN may need to scale up its Ukraine aid plans beyond 4 million refugees

Washington Post [12 MAR]
Poland's two largest cities warn they can no longer absorb Ukrainian refugees

The Independent [14 MAR]
Europe opens arms to millions of Ukraine refugees but how many people did countries take from other wars?

STORY SPOTLIGHT

Stateless girl in Croatia dreams of having “papers”



Medina Dibrani is like any other playful, curious nine-year-old. At her house in Sisak, a city of some 50,000 people in central Croatia, she likes watching cartoons and playing with her favourite toys: a stuffed frog, a doll called Marina, and a ragged dog called Lila. She also likes going to school, where her favourite subject is mathematics. But enrolling Medina in primary school is fraught with problems, as is taking her to the doctor. Even registering for a library card is impossible.

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](#)

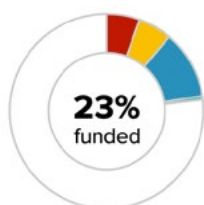
Operational data portals:

[Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

[Mediterranean Situation](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Requested for UNHCR's activities in Europe in 2022: **USD 1.101 billion***



Total contributed or pledged as of 29 March 2022: USD 254,365,629

including: European Union | United Kingdom | Japan | IKEA Foundation | Norway | CERF | CTP Invest SPOL | Italy | Denmark | Australia | United States of America | Canada | Finland | Austria | Ireland | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland | Australia for UNHCR | Cargolux | Sweden | Czechia | Ermenegildo Zegna N.V. | Bolt Nigeria | Mazda Motor Corporation | Royal Humanitarian Foundation Bahrain | United Kingdom for UNHCR | Giorgio Armani s.p.a. | Slovenia | L'Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | Iceland | Salvatore Ferragamo S.p.A | Liechtenstein | Private donors Italy | Z Zurich Foundation | Liebherr International AG | Private donors Switzerland | Estonia | Migration MPTF | JYSK | Faroe Islands | Enel Cuore Onus | Fondation CHANEL | Vodafone Foundation | Malta | Other private donors

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's 2022 global programme

Sweden \$95.2M | Norway \$72.5M | Netherlands \$37.2M | Denmark \$35.6M | Germany \$27.6M | Switzerland \$18.4M | Private donors Spain \$12.3M | 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 includes the supplementary appeal issued in March 2022 for the Ukraine situation, however, given the evolving nature of the crisis and increasing humanitarian needs, these financial requirements are currently being revised.