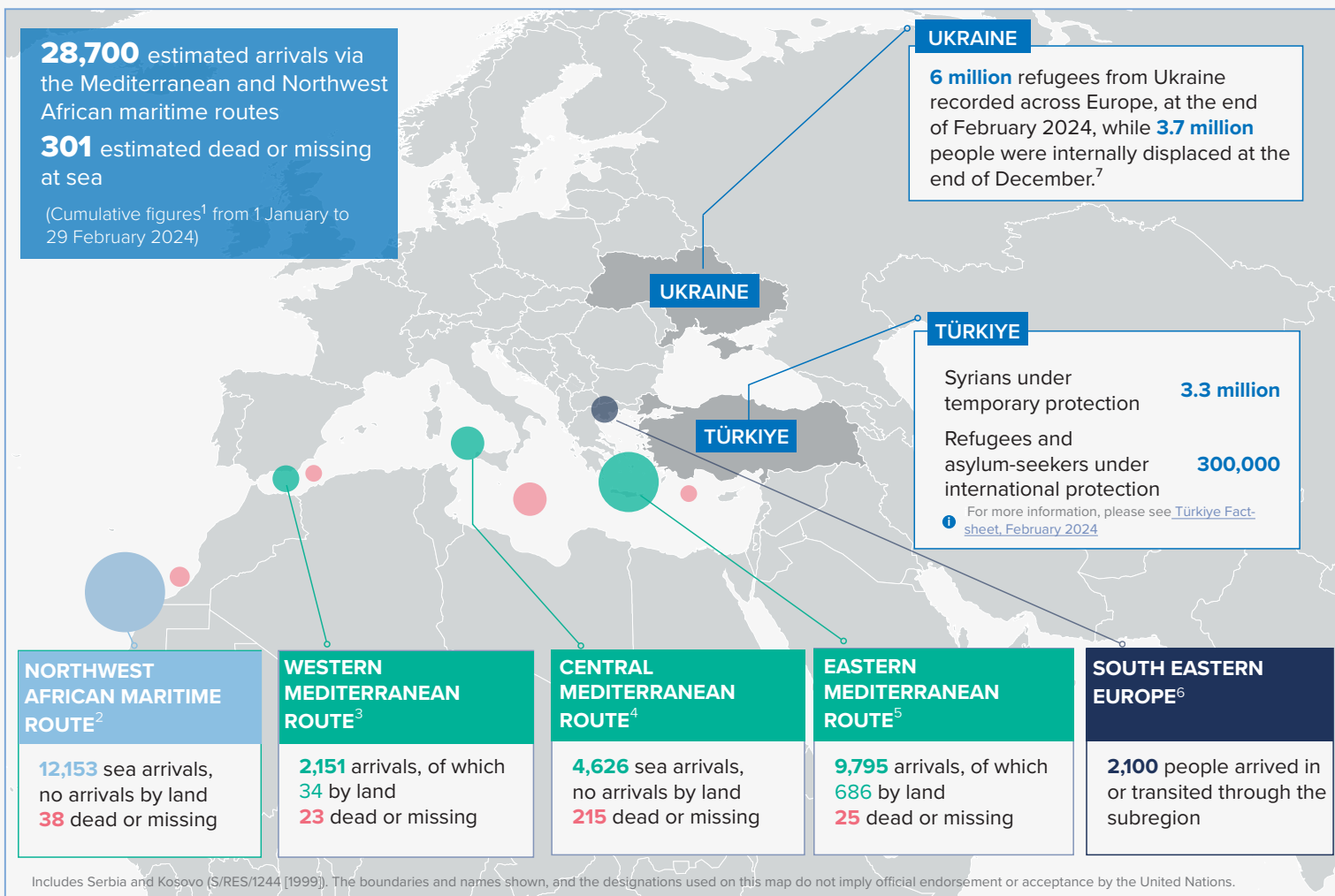


ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

► FEBRUARY 2024



UKRAINE SITUATION

The war in Ukraine triggered a major increase in humanitarian needs due to mass internal displacement and refugee outflows. At the end of February 2024, 5,982,900 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, with 5,688,000 registered for asylum, temporary protection or similar national protection schemes. As of the end of December 2023, 3.7 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine.⁷

According to preliminary findings from a recent study by UNHCR, “[Lives on Hold: Intentions and perspectives of refugees, refugee returnees and internally displaced peoples from Ukraine](#)”, the majority of Ukrainian refugees (65%) and internally displaced people (72%) surveyed still expressed a desire to return to Ukraine one day.

Nonetheless, there's been a noticeable decrease in this proportion, with a growing number expressing uncertainty about their future plans. Specifically, the percentage of Ukrainian refugees intending to return to Ukraine has dropped from 77 per cent over the past year. Similarly, among internally displaced people, the percentage aiming to return has declined from 84 per cent to 72 per cent. Key barriers preventing return, as reported by respondents, include the security situation in return areas, alongside concerns regarding access to livelihoods and housing.

Ukraine situation key figures as of 29 February

5,982,900

Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

503,100

Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

6,486,000

Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

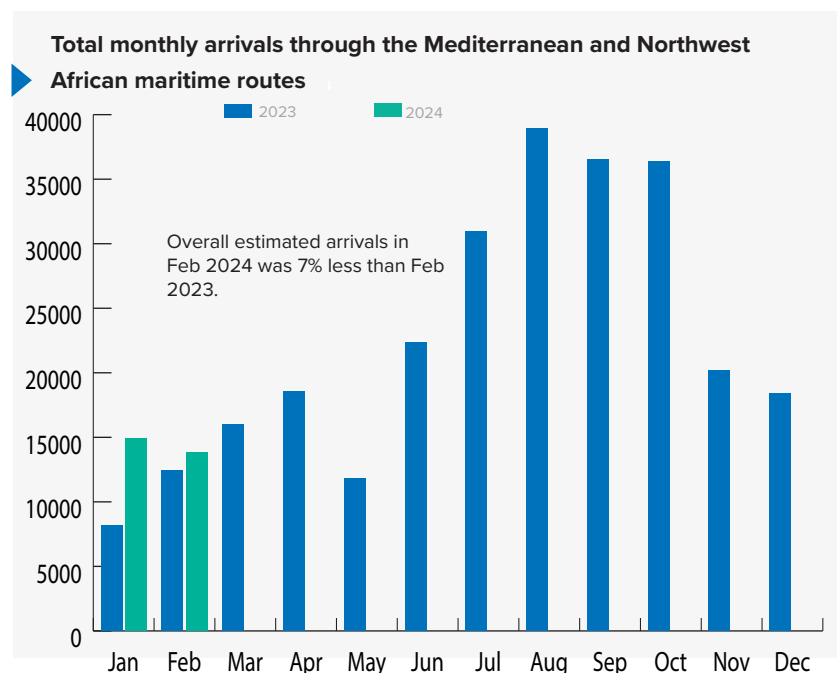
For more information, please visit the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

In February 2024, 13,800 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime route. This amounted to a 7 per cent decrease compared to last month, but an 11 per cent increase compared February 2023.

Arrivals in Italy increased by 2 per cent in February when compared to the previous month, but 76 per cent decrease compared to February 2023. Out of 4,600 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in February, 79 per cent departed from Libya and 19 per cent from Tunisia. Most refugees and migrants originated from Bangladesh, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In February 2024, 1,528 refugees and migrants who departed from Libya were intercepted, or rescued, by Libyan authorities and disembarked in Libya. This amounted to a 256 per cent increase compared to last month. Most people departing from Libya in February were from Egypt, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic.



In Spain, 6,100 refugees and migrants arrived over February 2024, a 25 per cent decrease compared to the previous month and 227 per cent compared to February 2023. Of all arrivals in February, 79 per cent landed in the Canary Islands. In February, arrivals in Spain through the Northwest African maritime route decreased by 33 per cent, but had increased by 43 per cent through the Western Mediterranean route compared to last month.

In February 4,300 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea, an 18 per cent increase compared to last month, and a 426 per cent increase compared to February 2023. According to data on arrivals in 2023, the majority of refugees and migrants were from Afghanistan, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting 6,100 refugees and migrants at sea in February, a 67 per cent increase compared to last month. Further, 991 refugees and migrants arrived in Cyprus in February, 84 per cent of which were by sea. The majority of the arrivals were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic.

For more information, please visit <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE⁹

In February 2024, 850 people arrived in, or transited through, the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. This equate to 33 per cent fewer arrivals than the previous month and four per cent fewer than in February 2023. So far this year, majority of refugees and migrants were from Afghanistan, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In February 2024, 124 people submitted asylum applications, 23 per cent more than the previous month (101). A total of 81 first-instance decisions were issued in February (two subsidiary protection status), while 19 applications were rejected and 60 were closed.

As of the end of February, 595 asylum applications were still pending a decision across the subregion.

For more information, please visit <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southeasterneurope>

¹ Dead and missing figures refer to the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes. Information is compiled from a variety of sources, the quality and reliability of which can vary. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures on some arrivals, as well as dead and missing at sea, represent an estimate. Triangulation of information and sources is performed on a continuous basis. Therefore, amendments in figures may occur, including retroactively.

² Includes sea arrivals in the Canary Islands (Spain) via the Atlantic Ocean.

³ Includes sea and land arrivals in Spain via the Western Mediterranean route.

⁴ Includes sea arrivals in Italy and Malta.

⁵ Includes sea and land arrivals in Greece and sea arrivals in Cyprus.

⁶ Majority of the persons arriving in the Western Balkan region are part of the secondary movement, those who have already arrived in Greece or Bulgaria and then transited through the region with the intention to move onward to other EU countries.

⁷ [Ukraine Internal Displacement Report](#), IOM, December 2023.

⁸ In preparation for UNHCR's Annual Statistical Review 2023, and publication of our Global Trends Report in June 2023, a thorough review of all statistics related to refugees from Ukraine was undertaken (for details please refer to [Ukraine Refugee Situation - Data Explanatory Note](#)).

⁹ Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).