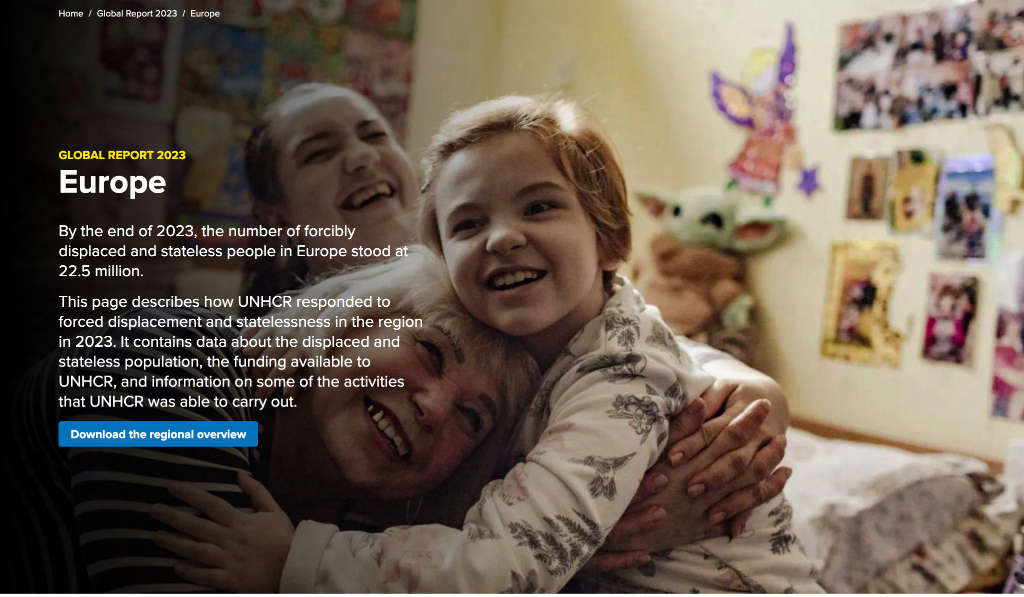


GLOBAL REPORT 2023

Europe

By the end of 2023, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people in Europe stood at 22.5 million.

This page describes how UNHCR responded to forced displacement and statelessness in the region in 2023. It contains data about the displaced and stateless population, the funding available to UNHCR, and information on some of the activities that UNHCR was able to carry out.

Download the regional overview

Nadia (61), her daughter Yuliia (38), and her granddaughter Alisa (8) are pictured in their one-room accommodation at a collective center in Dnipro, Ukraine. The family comes from Luhansk Oblast. Life before the full-scale invasion was much easier compared to the challenges they face now. Alisa, who has special needs, and her mother previously lived in a home specifically designed to accommodate Alisa's physical disability. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Regional overview

By the end of 2023, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people in Europe stood at 22.5 million, slightly down from 21.8 million in 2022.

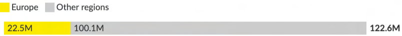
Inside Ukraine, some 3.7 million people were internally displaced. Those who have fled frontline areas remain at risk from indiscriminate air strikes on civilian targets and infrastructure, while disrupted livelihoods and social services have left millions dependent on humanitarian aid. UNHCR reached 2.6 million people affected by the war inside Ukraine, with nearly 900,000 of the most vulnerable receiving cash assistance. Over 900,000 received winterization assistance, including cash top-ups, relief items, and care in collective sites. UNHCR supported the repair of over 27,500 homes and contributed to 95 inter-agency humanitarian convoys delivering vital humanitarian assistance to frontline and hard-to-reach areas.

Nearly 6 million **refugees from Ukraine** were registered across Europe, some under the European Union (EU)'s Temporary Protection Directive – which was extended until March 2025 – and others under similar national schemes. UNHCR helped 218,000 refugees with cash assistance, and over 380,000 people received protection services such as legal counselling and socio-economic inclusion support. UNHCR coordinated the efforts of 243 partners in the Regional Refugee Response Plan, contributing in meeting the immediate needs of refugees in 11 countries, while ensuring their longer-term inclusion in education, healthcare services, access to accommodation and employment. UNHCR began piloting a refugee housing solution in Poland, while a network of over 30 'Blue Dot hubs' – information centres run by UNHCR, UNICEF and partners – reached nearly 300,000 people with information, services, and referrals for specific needs. With half of Ukrainian refugee children missing out on formal schooling in host countries, UNHCR issued recommendations to improve their access. UNHCR issued a Position on Voluntary Returns to Ukraine, urging host States to maintain protection and a flexible approach to refugees' short-term visits to Ukraine, and for refugees' legal status and associated rights in host countries to remain unaffected by visits lasting less than three months.

To advance **community-based approaches** to protection and refugee inclusion, UNHCR established the Regional Contact Centre in Hungary, a toll-free refugee helpline covering operations across Europe, which received 52,000 calls. A second iteration of the 'Stay Safe' campaign to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking and exploitation reached 7.9 million people. UNHCR managed 40 dedicated Help sites, which received 9.1 million hits, providing vital protection information across the region.

Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2023

18% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population.



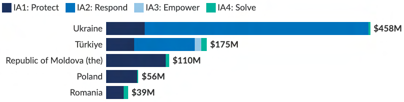
Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Regional expenditure and budget

$1.047 billion spent against a budget of **$1.694 billion**
$647 million of unmet needs or **38%** of the budget

Operations with the highest expenditure in Europe | 2023

These 5 operations accounted for 80% of the total regional expenditure of $1.047 billion.



IA stands for "Impact Area".

Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Regional funding and earmarking for Europe | 2020-2023

When earthquakes devastated south-east **Türkiye** in February 2023, UNHCR supported the Turkish Government's response with over 3 million core relief items including tents, beds and bedding, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and containers. Over 68,500 people benefited from UNHCR's Specific Needs Fund cash assistance, while over 500,000 individuals were reached by UNHCR-funded protection activities, including legal counselling, referral to specialized services, and psychosocial support. UNHCR prioritized resettlement for vulnerable refugees affected by the earthquakes, many of whom were injured or lost family members, housing or livelihoods. Over 16,800 refugees were processed for resettlement, and over 13,900 – mostly Syrians – departed from Türkiye through resettlement in 2023.

An escalation in hostilities in the South Caucasus resulted in over 105,000 refugees leaving the **Karabakh** region for Armenia. Many arrived with acute protection needs following their sudden departure. UNHCR supported the humanitarian response led by the authorities in Armenia –who offered Temporary Protection to refugees – and coordinated the inter-agency Refugee Response Plan to deliver protection and assistance to refugees and host populations. UNHCR delivered nearly 90,000 items including beds, hygiene kits and kitchen sets to help vulnerable refugees cope with the cold winter months.

Some 270,200 refugees and migrants **arrived in Europe by sea** along the primary Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes, nearly 70% more than in 2022, further straining national reception capacities. Most arrived in Italy, though Greece and Spain saw the largest year-on-year increases. At least 4,100 people were reported dead or missing at sea, 36% more than in 2022. UNHCR and IOM repeated calls for urgent and decisive action to prevent tragedies such as that of the sinking of a boat near Pylos, Greece, in June in which hundreds perished, and following numerous other shipwrecks and fatal incidents along the primary maritime routes to Europe.

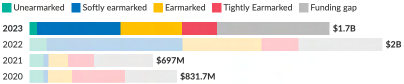
After years of calling for solidarity and responsibility-sharing, UNHCR welcomed the political agreement reached on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in late 2023 and continued to call for the implementation of protection-sensitive reforms that strengthen efficiency, while respecting and protecting the right to seek asylum in the EU.

As some States attempted to externalize their asylum obligations or introduce deterrent measures inconsistent with international law, UNHCR engaged with states and regional institutions, including the EU, to identify fair and equitable responses to migratory and refugee movements by taking a "route-based approach" encompassing countries of origin, transit and asylum.

In 2023, over 29,150 submissions were made globally to resettle refugees in Europe, and the region received over 15,500 refugees through **resettlement**.

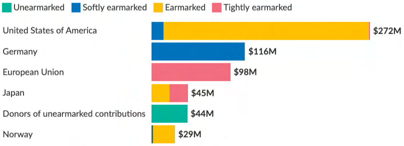
UNHCR worked simultaneously with the private sector to expand refugee employment opportunities and remove obstacles to their financial **inclusion**, working with the European Banking Authority, European Commission, development actors, financial service providers, refugee-led organizations and NGOs.

$1.058 billion funds available (62%) in 2023 out of the $1.694 billion required.



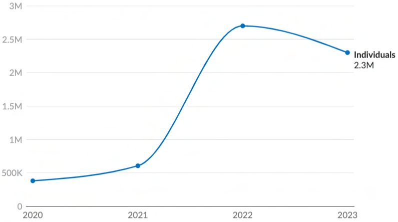
Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions to Europe



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments = $453 million
Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

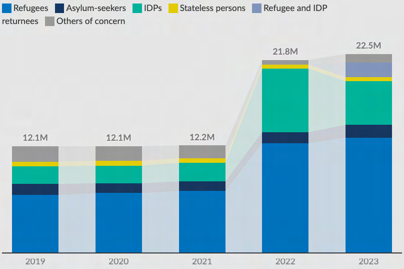
Individuals accessing protection services across Europe



2020 was part of UNHCR's Covid-19 response.
Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Population overview

Displacement trend in Europe | 2019-2023



Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

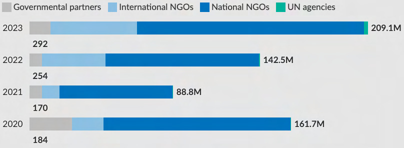
Top 5 operations by population in Europe | 2023

These 5 operations represent 66% of the regional population.

Financial overview

Expenditure via partners in Europe | 2020-2023 (USD millions)

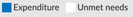
$209.1 million spent via 292 partners in 2023

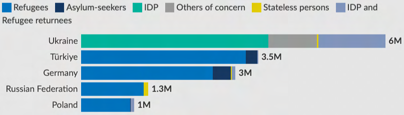


(Figures appearing below each bar are the total number of partners or for each category when scrolling on.)
Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

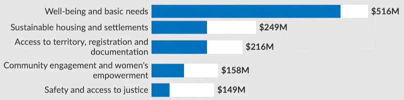
Top 5 areas of expenditure in Europe | 2023

These 5 areas accounted for 80% of the total regional expenditure of $1.047 billion.





Source: UNHCR Global Trends • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

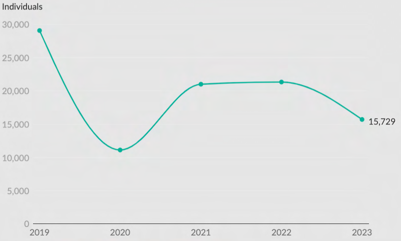


Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Download detailed financial and contribution information

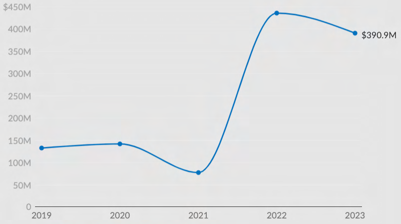
Trends in response

Resettlement departures to countries in Europe | 2019-2023



Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Cash assistance in Europe | 2019-2023



Source: UNHCR • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

Multisectoral monitoring results

Protection

2.3 million people received protection services*

2022 result: 2.7 million

Protection services encompasses a vast range of community-based, individual and household interventions in various domains of UNHCR protection work, including counselling and information on rights, sensitization on protection issues, community outreach and mobilization, specialized services for children or other persons with specific needs, GBV programming, legal assistance, registration and documentation, Refugee status determination and resettlement case-work, protection monitoring.

Child protection

460,000 children received protection services*

2022 result: 795,800

86% of countries in the region had child protection services available to forcibly displaced and stateless children

Child protection services include support through Best Interests Procedures for children at risk, targeted support for children with specific needs and children in alternative care, support through family tracing and reunification, and reintegration support for children associated with armed groups and forces.

Accountability to affected populations

66% of reporting countries had a multi-channel feedback and response system that was designed based on consultations with forcibly displaced and stateless people

2022 result: 60%

Basic needs

1.1 million people received cash assistance

2022 result: 2.0 million

1.5 million people received non-food items including core relief items*

Indicator not available in 2022

This indicator reflects the total number of people who benefited from the direct distribution of in-kind non-food items, including domestic Core Relief Items (CRIs) and excluding shelter CRIs.

Shelter

283,000 people received shelter and housing assistance*

Indicator not available in 2022

Shelter and housing assistance includes emergency, transitional and durable shelter provision, collective shelter, shelter repair and maintenance, and rental programming.

Health

287,000 people received mental health and psychosocial support services

2022 result: 77.200

© UNHCR/Karen Minasyan

Swedish fashion firms show solidarity with displaced Ukrainians

Swedish fashion firms **Gudrun Sjödén Group AB** and **H&M Group** were among the many companies coming to the aid of displaced Ukrainians in 2023. Gudrun Sjödén Group AB ran a campaign to support UNHCR's response in Ukraine by donating the proceeds from the sales of two dresses and one tote bag in 28 countries, which raised $614,000.

H&M, a longstanding partner to UNHCR, supported refugees by donating winter clothes valued at $1.5 million, which were distributed to forcibly displaced people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, as well as in Armenia.

Situations

[Ukraine situation]

[Western and Central Mediterranean situation]

Operations*

Moldova | Türkiye | Ukraine

***The operations listed above are the ones with annual results reports available on Global Focus for 2023.**

Lena Grochowska and Władysław Groc...
Watch later
Share
UNSUNG
HEROES
EUROPE
Watch on YouTube
UNHCR
NANSEN
REFUGEE
AWARD

Additional resources

- Evaluation of the Refugee and Migrant Advice Service's Alternative to detention pilot