

Italy

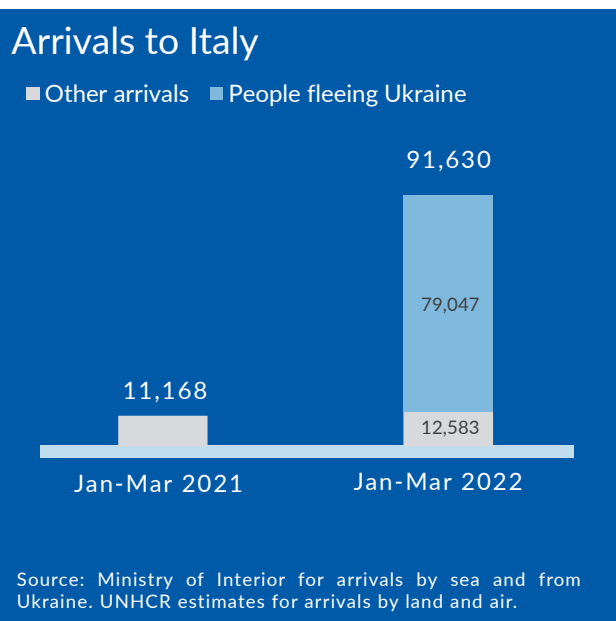
March 2022

As of the end of March, **79,047 refugees fleeing Ukraine arrived in Italy** mainly via the northern borders with Austria and Slovenia. **UNHCR staff in northern Italy** provide information and assistance to

new arrivals, advocating for **prompt identification and referrals of vulnerable individuals**, including unaccompanied children. **UNHCR staff also support the Italian Civil Protection** in coordinating the response to the emergency.

In March, **1,358 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, most commonly in Lampedusa. UNHCR launched initiatives to promote **refugee participation** and to prevent and respond to **gender-based violence**.

TOTAL ARRIVALS



KEY FIGURES (MARCH 2022)

76,849

Arrivals from Ukraine to Italy by land, air and train (Source: Ministry of Interior, as of 31 March)

1,358

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different sites across the country (Source: Ministry of Interior)

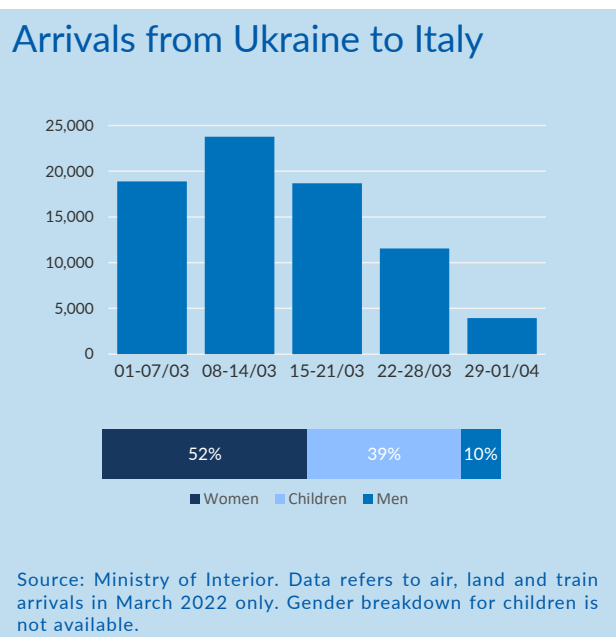
15,961

People fleeing Ukraine informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff at Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points (Source: UNHCR, as of 31 March)

932

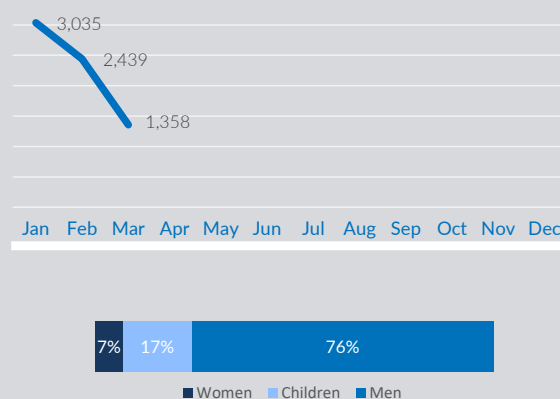
Sea arrivals assisted and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation (Source: UNHCR)

UKRAINE



SEA ARRIVALS

Sea arrivals to Italy



- **Ukraine emergency.**¹ Since the start of the emergency at the end of February 2022, **79,047 arrivals from Ukraine were registered in Italy as of the end of March**. Almost 77,000 of them arrived in the month of March. Most persons fleeing Ukraine arrive via Slovenia and Austria through border crossing points in Ferneti, near Trieste, and Tarvisio, respectively. Many travel onward to reach relatives or members of the Ukrainian diaspora in Italy, most commonly heading to large cities, such as Rome, Milan, Bologna and Naples. Click here for a short [video](#) recounting the experience of women and children arriving at the Italy-Slovenia border after fleeing Ukraine.

- Approximately **90% of persons fleeing Ukraine are women and children**, and this is reflected in the gender and age breakdown of arrivals in Italy also. While the risks of gender-based violence, trafficking, abuse, psychological trauma and family separation increase in times of conflict and displacement, the gender profile of this refugee outflow and the fact that many children have fled alone means that such risks are multiplied in the circumstances. Many persons with disabilities have also left Ukraine in the first weeks after the outbreak of the conflict at the end of February, also reaching Italy. **UNHCR staff have been deployed to the Ferneti and Tarvisio crossing points** in the northern Friuli Venezia-Giulia region throughout March, supporting the authorities in coordinating the response to refugee arrivals, providing newcomers with information on relevant procedures, identifying unaccompanied children and other vulnerable individuals and distributing assistance items donated by private companies. Click here to watch a short [video](#) on UNHCR staff assisting arrivals from Ukraine at the Italy's north-eastern border with Slovenia.

- By the end of March, **UNHCR staff in Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points provided information about services and registration procedures to 15,961 persons fleeing Ukraine**. Through its front desk in Rome and through the toll-free helpline managed by partner ARCI, UNHCR also provided **counselling on asylum and access to services to 603 persons** in March.

- UNHCR containers were installed at both Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points to welcome new arrivals and provide a more adequate setting to talk to persons and identify their needs. In collaboration with UNICEF and other partners, UNHCR has also set up **information and assistance points**, offering child-friendly information materials and referrals to available services. These information and assistance points can also help identifying persons with



UNHCR staff provide information to refugees from Ukraine arriving at Italy's Ferneti border crossing point ©UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

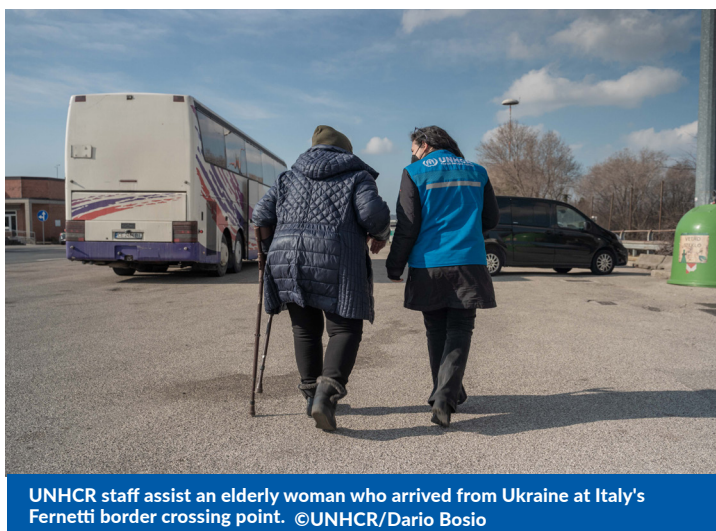


UNHCR set up a temporary office at the Ferneti border crossing point ©UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

¹ For further information on arrivals from Ukraine, please refer to the [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) page of the UNHCR data portal. For further details of arrivals in Italy, please refer to Civil Protection dashboards available at this [page](#). (in Italian, last access 20 May 2022)

specific needs linked to medical conditions, disabilities or experiences of gender-based violence, and offering basic counseling and psychological first aid. Throughout March, UNHCR has closely liaised with relevant authorities to **ensure full respect of legal safeguards on the identification, guardianship and referral to services of the many Ukrainian children who enter Italy travelling on their own or without their parents.**²

- In March, UNHCR organized information sessions as well as **focus group discussions** with the Ukrainian community to better understand their needs and the risks for the protection of new arrivals. In collaboration with UNICEF and IOM, UNHCR developed and disseminated **information materials** on services available for refugees, with a particular focus on trafficking and gender-based violence.
- The Civil Protection has been tasked with the overall coordination of the response to the Ukrainian emergency in Italy. Since mid-March, **UNHCR staff has been seconded to the Civil Protection** providing support with coordination, protection work and emergency response to Ukrainian arrivals. UNHCR has been promoting the identification of vulnerable persons, the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees in host communities since the beginning of the crisis and the one-stop-shop approach in areas of large Ukrainian presence to ensure refugees have effective access to information, documentation and services under one roof. Italian authorities and civil society have also worked closely to step-up the capacity of the reception system, while promoting family housing schemes and cash assistance programmes.



UNHCR staff assist an elderly woman who arrived from Ukraine at Italy's Feroni border crossing point. ©UNHCR/Dario Bosio

- **Access to territory (other arrivals).** In March 2022, **1,358 refugees and migrants, including 329 children travelling on their own, arrived in Italy by sea**, a decrease compared to 2,439 arriving in February and 3,035 reaching shore in January. The vast majority of monthly sea arrivals (37%) embarked in Turkey, followed by Tunisia (33%) and Libya (30%). Most refugees and migrants registered at land points in southern Italy in March originate from Afghanistan, Egypt and Tunisia, the three nationalities cumulatively accounting for over half of monthly sea arrivals. Most persons arriving in March disembarked in Sicily, with **Lampedusa receiving 30% of all monthly sea arrivals**. With the COVID-19 state of emergency coming to an end on 31 March 2022, four out of five quarantine ferries deployed by the authorities during the pandemic ceased to be operational during the month. **Year to date, 6,832 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, including 907 children travelling on their own. This compares to 7,418 and 2,794 in the same period in 2021 and 2020, respectively (-43% and +463% respectively). The most common nationalities of sea arrivals since the beginning of the year were Egypt (24% of January-March arrivals), followed by Bangladesh (19%), Tunisia (13%), Afghanistan (9%) and Côte d'Ivoire (6%).³
- On top of persons crossing the north-eastern land borders after fleeing from Ukraine, an **additional 423 refugees and migrants also entered Italy by land from Slovenia** in March 2022, mainly originating from Bangladesh (131 persons), Pakistan (112) and, to a lesser extent, India (41) Afghanistan (37).

³ For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

⁴ See also UNHCR-UNICEF, [Raccomandazioni a tutela della protezione di bambine e bambini in fuga dall'Ucraina](#), 14 March 2022 (in Italian, last access 20 May 2022).

Year to date, 663 persons arrived by land via Slovenia. Significant numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers continued to be also reported in areas near the Italy-France border, intending to cross into France and move onwards to other European countries.

- **Community-based protection.** In March, the fifth edition of the UNHCR - Intersos [PartecipAzione](#) programme was launched, aiming to **empower refugee communities** and strengthen their capacities and engagement with host communities. Through the programme, up to ten refugee-led and community-based organizations will have access to a **small grant, ad hoc training, coaching and networking opportunities**, stepping up refugee participation and social cohesion. Since 2018, 50 refugee-led and community-based organizations benefited from the programme in 12 Italian regions, working to promote the protection, participation and integration of refugees in Italy.
- In line with stepped up efforts to **prevent and respond to gender-based violence among refugee communities in Italy**, particularly in view of the high numbers of women fleeing Ukraine, in March UNHCR launched a [call for expression of interest](#) for partners intending to implement projects addressing the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons who survived gender-based violence.
- **Community engagement.** UNHCR took part in the [Festivaldeigiovani](#) initiative, **reaching out to over 2,500 young students aged 14 to 19 and engaging them in discussions on refugees** and forced migration, addressing their questions and helping them accessing reliable information on refugee emergencies, ultimately contributing to promoting welcoming communities. Further information can be accessed on this [press release](#).



Representatives of refugee-led organizations attend a PartecipAzione networking event in Naples in 2019 ©UNHCR/Cristiano Minichiello

Fundraising for the Ukraine emergency

In March, UNHCR raised **18.9 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 25.8 million Euros since the beginning of the year.

Many **fashion houses** responded generously to the appeal of the National Chamber of Italian Fashion, donating to support UNHCR's response to the Ukraine emergency: Zegna, Armani, Prada, Valentino, Gucci, Ferragamo, Max Mara, Moncler and Stone Island, Bottega Veneta, Golden Goose, Furla, Dolce&Gabbana, The Attico, Missoni, Brioni, GCDS, Trussardi, Donatella Versace, Betty Blue, Patrizia Pepe, Gianvito Rossi, Etro, Del Core, Santoni, Woolrich, Giuseppe Zanotti, Fabiana Filippi.



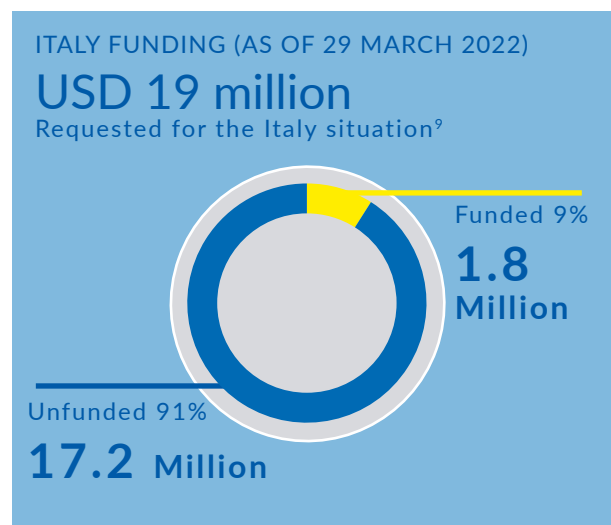
©UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

Thanks to the support of **RAI per il Sociale**, the Ukraine emergency **fundraising campaign launched by the Italian Red Cross, UNHCR and UNICEF** through the text-to-give number 45525 raised 8 million Euros.

Many other donors contributed to the Ukraine emergency in March, including Intesa Sanpaolo, Amplifon, Generali, Lamborghini, Fondazione Pesenti, Pirelli, GS1, Mediolanum Foundation, Adecco, Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Enel, Fondazione Bocelli.

COOP and Sapore di Mare launched a fundraising campaign in their stores appealing their clients to support UNHCR's response for the Ukraine emergency and matching through a corporate gift the amount raised.

Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 95.2 million | **Norway** 72.5 million | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Germany** 27.6 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 12.3 M | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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LINKS

[UNHCR data portal](#) - [UNHCR Italy](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Global Focus](#)

⁹ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. The contributions earmarked for Italy shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking.