

Italy

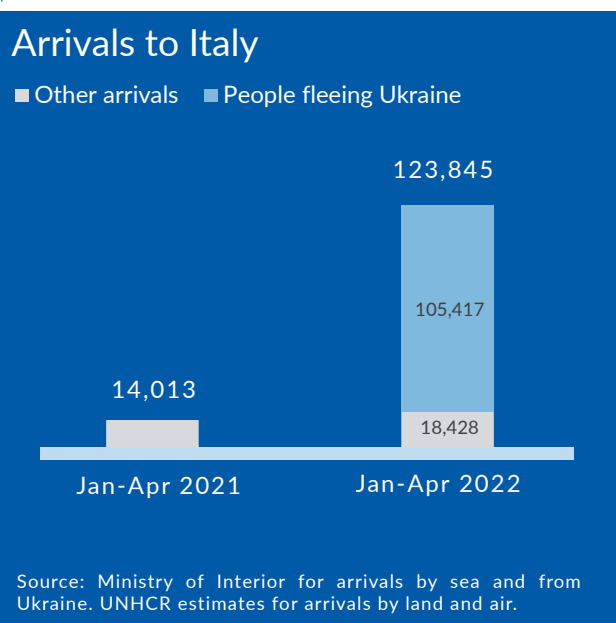
April 2022

With **105,417 refugees fleeing Ukraine** having arrived in Italy by the end of April, **UNHCR opened two Blue Dots** to assist vulnerable persons entering through Italy's north-eastern borders.

The PM's decree implementing temporary protection entered into force. Over **78,000 persons lodged a temporary protection application** since the start of the emergency, while over 1,100 claimed asylum.

In collaboration with Refugees Welcome and CIAC, UNHCR launched the **Community Matching** programme to strengthen **integration** by linking refugees with volunteer buddies from host communities.

TOTAL ARRIVALS



KEY FIGURES (APRIL 2022)

26,370

Arrivals from Ukraine
to Italy by land, air and train (Source: Ministry of Interior, as of 1 May)

3,929

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

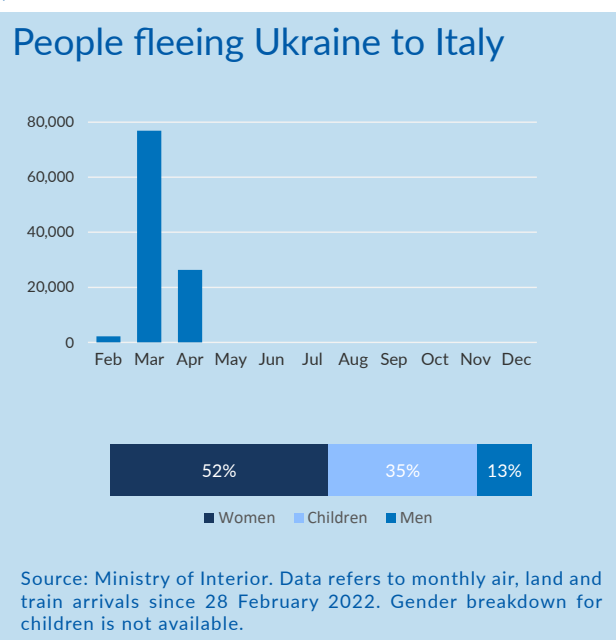
6,131

People fleeing Ukraine informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff at Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points (Source: UNHCR, as of 30 April)

2,283

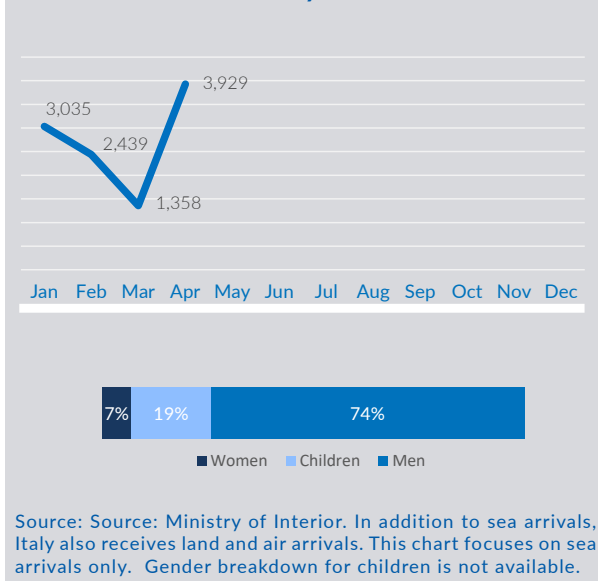
Sea arrivals assisted and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation (Source: UNHCR)

UKRAINE



SEA ARRIVALS

Sea arrivals to Italy



- **Ukraine emergency.**¹ As of the end of April, just over two months since the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022, **105,417 refugees from Ukraine arrived in Italy** travelling by land and air, most commonly entering the country through the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points in the northern Friulia Venezia-Giulia region. There was a slight decrease in arrivals around the Easter festivities, but numbers picked up again after Easter, with over 26,370 persons recorded as having entered in April alone. Access to territory was regularly granted to Ukrainian citizens as well as non-Ukrainian nationals who were living in Ukraine prior to the start of the emergency and fled the country when the military hostilities began.
- **UNHCR staff continued to be present at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points** providing new arrivals with information on relevant procedures to obtain protection in Italy and supporting the authorities in coordinating the response and identifying vulnerable persons, including children travelling on their own. By the end of April, **22,092 persons have been provided with basic information** about services and registration procedures by UNHCR staff at the border. UNHCR and partners' intervention with the authorities ensures that children on their own are promptly identified and that adequate follow-up is arranged, with referral to ad hoc services following a thorough assessment of individual circumstances.
- As of 21 April, **two Blue Dots became operational at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points**. Blue dots are safe spaces established by UNHCR and UNICEF and run in partnership with ARCI, D.i.R.E., Save the Children and Stella Polare, providing critical information and services to refugees that need extra care, such as children travelling on their own, women with young children, persons with disabilities and survivors of sexual violence. The Blue Dots are managed in close cooperation with local authorities and are common in emergency contexts. Some 20 Blue Dots have been established by UNHCR and UNICEF in countries affected by the Ukraine emergency over the recent weeks. The Blue Dots in Ferneti and Tarvisio are the first to open in Italy and intend to provide a **coordinated response to the specific needs of women and children**, who are often at risk of gender-based violence, trafficking, abuse, psychological trauma and family separation. Women and children represent approximately 90% of persons fleeing Ukraine.¹
- In mid-April, the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers implementing **temporary protection** in Italy entered into



¹ For further information, see UNHCR, [Emergenza Ucraina: UNHCR e UNICEF attivano due blue dots in Friuli Venezia Giulia per fornire informativa e supporto ai rifugiati in fuga dall'Ucraina in arrivo in Italia](#) 21 April, (in Italian, last access 23 March 2022). This [video](#) also explains what Blue Dots are.

force, making it possible for authorities to issue temporary protection permits. Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons. While provided for in 2001, temporary protection was triggered for the first time by the Council of the European Union in 2022 in response to the Ukrainian emergency. Some **78,000 persons applied for temporary protection in Italy between the start of the emergency and the end of April**. While temporary protection largely applies to persons who fled Ukraine after the outbreak of conflict on 24 February 2022, individuals who left Ukraine before such date can seek protection by applying for asylum. In Italy, over 1,100 asylum applications were lodged by Ukrainians since the start of the conflict, that is 91% of all asylum applications submitted by this nationality year to date.²

- Throughout the month of April, **UNHCR staff regularly met and liaised with the Ukrainian community to better identify and address their needs**. UNHCR provided information to the community, including by sharing selected information materials and developing ad hoc documentation specifically addressing the community's information needs on different procedures available to access protection in Italy. At the end of April, UNHCR also launched the first **Youtube information sessions in Ukrainian**, including on the risk of gender-based violence, to increasingly sensitize the community on this issue and highlight the community's role in preventing such risk.
- Together with UNICEF and IOM, UNHCR shared recommendations with the Ministry of Interior regarding the **Draft Plan on the protection of Ukrainian children** arriving in Italy on their own, with a view to ensuring that legal safeguards are duly respected. UNHCR also liaised with local authorities in Trieste, including the Prosecutor and the Juvenile Court, sharing practical recommendations to ensure **prompt identification of children travelling on their own at the border** and coordination with relevant stakeholders in destination cities. Furthermore, UNHCR, together with UNICEF, joined a **technical task force set up by the Ministry of Education** to support access and integration of Ukrainian children in the Italian school system.
- In April, UNHCR also worked to facilitate the establishment of a tripartite agreement for **mental health support activities** by the Italian Psychoanalytical Society and the Ukrainian Exarchate in Rome and Milan, with active involvement by a group of Ukrainian psychologists. Activities particularly aim at women and children and also entail group work by both Italian and Ukrainian mental health professionals. UNHCR staff continue their **secondment at the Civil Protection** started in March, supporting with coordination and emergency response and promoting an approach sensitive to the protection needs of the Ukrainian population. In April, the UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, attended hearings at the **Senate's Human Rights Commission** and at the **Parliamentary Commission for Children and Adolescence**, focusing on the situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, as well as in Europe, and shedding light, in particular, on initiatives to be adopted to ensure the full protection of Ukrainian children.



UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, meets with representatives of the Ukrainian community in Santa Sofia, Rome. ©UNHCR

² For further information on temporary protection, see also European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#) (last access 23 May 2022).

- **Access to territory (other arrivals).** In April 2022, **3,929 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, bringing year-to-date arrivals to 10,761, an increase of 19% and 211% compared to the numbers of persons reaching shore in the January-April period in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Most sea arrivals disembarking in Italy in April originate from Bangladesh, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan and Tunisia. While over half of monthly arrivals departed from Libya, followed by Turkey (20%) and Tunisia (17%), **one in ten refugees and migrants disembarking in April departed from Lebanon**. Most persons embarking in Lebanon were Syrian nationals. New arrivals undergo a 5-day COVID-19 surveillance period, either in onshore facilities (Apulia and Calabria) or on offshore ferries. Over 400 persons in April were rescued in SAR operations conducted by NGO vessels.³
- An additional **367 (non Ukrainian) land arrivals** were reported through the Italy-Slovenia border in April, mainly originating from Bangladesh and Pakistan. Year to date, 1,453 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by land from Slovenia.
- **Solutions.** On 1 April, the **fourth edition of the UNICORE - University Corridors for Refugees** initiative was launched, offering 69 refugee students the opportunity to attend a masters programme at an Italian university. For the first time this year, the programme will involve refugee students living in Cameroon, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.⁴
- **Community engagement.** In April, UNHCR staff, in partnership with Agorà del Sapere and CESPI, reached **over 300 secondary school students** in various locations, including Rome and Genoa, raising their awareness on refugee issues and global crises.
- **Fundraising.** In April, UNHCR raised **5.3 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 31.1 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR response to the Ukraine emergency this month were EssilorLuxottica, Nexi, Intercos, Unicredit Foundation and Fater.



UNHCR launches Community Matching programme

In April, UNHCR and partners Refugees Welcome Italia and CIAC Onlus launched a **Community Matching programme**, aiming to strengthen relationships between an initial group of 63 participating refugees and volunteer buddies from host communities. The programme will be implemented thanks to funding by the Soka Gakkai Buddhist Institute in Bari, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin.

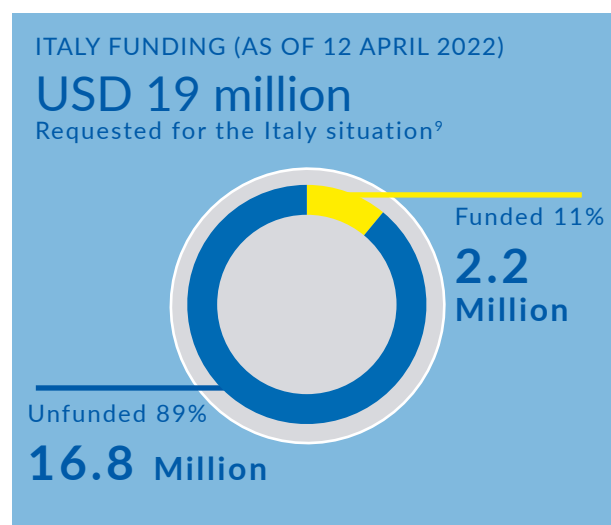


By strengthening social relationships between refugees and local communities, the Community Matching programme intends to promote the integration of refugees. To learn more about the programme, click [here](#). To read UNHCR's press release, click [here](#).

³ For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal. See also UNHCR, [Protection, saving lives, & solutions for refugees in dangerous journeys](#), April 2022 (last access 23 May 2022)

⁴ See also UNHCR, [Progetto UNICORE, parte oggi la quarta edizione: 33 università italiane accoglieranno 69 studenti rifugiati dal Camerun, Niger, Nigeria](#), 1 April 2022 (in Italian, last access 23 May 2022)

Financial information



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of its 2022 programme in Italy:

Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | Enel Cuore Onlus | European Union | Other private donors

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of broadly earmarked and unearmarked contributions to the 2022 global programme. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 95.4 million | **Norway** 72.5 million | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Germany** 27 million | **Private donors** **Spain** 19.9 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million | **Italy** 10 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

UNHCR is grateful to Italy for its support to UNHCR operations worldwide.

ITALY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE | EUR

In the month of April, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/Directorate General for Development Cooperation gave a core contribution of **EUR 9 million** to UNHCR, supporting the Agency's ability to determine how to best protect and assist refugees and other persons of concern.

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LINKS

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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.